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THE
HISTORY
OF
HEROD
AND
MARIAMNE;

Collected and Compil'd from the
best HISTORIANS, and serving to
illustrate the *Fable* of Mr. FENTON'S
Tragedy of that Name.

*Small Jealousies, 'tis true, inflame Desire,
The Great, not fan, but quite put out the Fire.*

Dryd. Aureng.

L O N D O N:

Printed for THOMAS CORBET, at *Addison's Head*,
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Price One Shilling.

TESTORY

OF

WILLIAM W. W.



Given I signed, in the presence of
The Clerk, and the said Clerk and the said
1794. 1794.

For Thomas Gordon of Glasgow
to the said Thomas Gordon of Glasgow
1794. 1794.



THE PREFACE.



IF the following Sheets have the good Fortune to give any Entertainment, they will need no Apology; and if they fail of That, will, consequently, deserve none. They were penn'd with a peculiar View to that Part of the Town who are People of Pleasure, and Favourers of the

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Theatre ; to give them a fuller Light into a Story, upon which an ingenious Gentleman has founded a Tragedy.

This is throwing no Reflection on the Author, or supposing that he writes his Fable so intricately, as to require an Explication. But as Dramatick Writers are, by the Rules of their Art, confin'd to a single Action, and the whole Drift of the Scene is to be directed to that One Point; there are many Circumstances of Story, which they are either oblig'd to touch but lightly, or absolutely to throw into Shade. Now as Tragedy generally employs itself in the Concerns of Distressed Lovers, the Ladies are desirous of being more intimately acquainted with Particularities, than the Compass and Necessity of the Fable can comply with. In this Case, Recourse is to be had to History ; and, to satisfy the Curiosity of the Fair Sex in such Enquiries, were these Memoirs collected. I might say too, that by being let into the Circumstances of a Story, before they come to sit down to the Play, the Attention of an Audience is eased

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eased and pleasingly disengaged; and they have Leisure to dwell upon the Beauties of the Poet, the Force of his Language, and the Working up of his Passions.

It is a Hardship upon a Poet, who ventures to divert and please the Town in a Dramatic Way, that he must make use both of his Judgment and Genius; of the first, in the Choice and Modelling of his Fable; and of the latter, in dressing it, when chosen and modell'd, with proper Energy and Embellishment of Diction.

In both these Respects, Mr. FENTON has raised Expectation, and stands fair for meeting with Success. By the Specimens which he has given the World, in the Poetry which he has already publish'd, we are convinc'd that he has a happy Way of Thinking, and that his Language is delicate, without Stiffness, or Affectation. As these two Points are Proofs of his Genius, the Choice of the Story, of HEROD and MARIAMNE, in which such noble Passions are engag'd, is an Evidence of his Judgment. I know of no Affection, or Distemper of the Mind, in
which

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which we interest ourselves so deeply upon the Stage, as that Jealousie which is work'd up against an innocent fine Woman, from the Suggestions of Treachery, or Unreasonableness of Suspicion. The Reason is, that we see so many Instances, in private Life, of the Distractions, which are mov'd upon the Springs of this Passion.

The Distress of MARIAMNE flow'd from this unhappy Source, and has been thought a Story of such Importance, that it has employ'd several to try their Strength upon it. The judicious Author of CLEOPATRA has woven the Distresses of this Jewish Heroine into his Romance, and made an Incident of wonderful Beauty and Passion: And the late ingenious Mr. ADDISON contracted the Heads of her Story into the Compass of a SPECTATOR, to shew the Force of ill-grounded Jealousie.

The First, I think, who attempted to bring this Story into a Drama, was the Lady Elizabeth Carew, in the Reign of Queen Elizabeth, under the Title of Mariam, the fair Queen of Jewry, her Tragedy.

I cannot

The P R E F A C E.

I cannot say what Success her Play either met with, or merited; but we find, that in less than ten Years afterwards, it produced another from Mr. Gervase Markham, under the Title of Herod and Antipater.

After these a Tragedy, under the Title of Herod the Great, was wrote in Heroick Verse, by the Right Honourable Roger Earl of Orrery, whose Reputation, both for Arts and Arms, is too well known to need any Encomium here. His Lordship, I think, never thought fit to give it to the Stage; but about thirty Years ago it appear'd in Print.

There was another Tragedy likewise written upon this Story, called Herod and Mariamne, by Samuel Pordage, Esq; We have Reason to suspect this was of no great Reputation, because a merry Story is recorded of it. The Author, or somebody for him, that was fond of the Performance, left it to the Perusal of the witty Lord Rochester, to have the Concurrence of his Opinion in its Favour: But his Lordship was so out of Humour with it, that he return'd it with this Distich written on the Cover:

Poet,

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Poet, whoe'er thou art, I say G--d damn thee;
Take my Advice, and burn thy *Mariamne*.

I do not know of any Body else that exercis'd his Pen upon this Subject: But from these frequent Attempts we are to suppose the Story of *MARIAMNE* to have so many Charms, that, like the Bow of *ULYSSES*, every one was ambitious to try his Skill with it, tho' every one had not equal Strength to manage it.



THE



THE
HISTORY
OF
Herod and Mariamne, &c.

INTRODUCTION.

IF Story be of most Consequence, and most likely to engage us, where the Dignity of the Persons begins to demand our Attention, where the Importance of their Actions continues our Veneration, and where the Height of their Afflictions attaches our Hearts to their Interests; it is hardly possible to find out a Subject more eminent, in any of these respects, than the History of *HEROD* and *MARIAMNE*. When Invention is upon the Stretch to form Incidents, when the Writer has nothing but *Fairy-Land* before him, and has the Liberty of a Poet to create Adventures, and dress up a Tale of Surprise and Delight, it is no Wonder if we are transported with the Process of the Fable, and charm'd to find our Passions stir'd by Adventures, which we are perplex'd to think should ever have happened. The History of *Mariamne* sets out with all these Advantages, without being beholden to any Resources of Fiction to embellish it.

Let us look into the Quality of *Mariamne*, and we find a Lady allied to Empire from a long De-
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scent of sceptred Ancestors. Let us turn our Eyes on *Herod*, and we see a *Great King*, made so by his own Policy, and (what then was equivalent to the Right of Inheritance) confirm'd in his Throne by the Acknowledgment of the *Romans*.

Let us view *Mariamne* in her Person and Character, and we shall meet a Princess truly worthy of so illustrious a Lineage. By her Form we are prepossess'd for one of the World's rarest Beauties, whom we cannot behold in Description without Astonishment, and some Inclination to Idolatry. Her Eyes were lively and penetrating, commanding Awe, but temper'd with Sweetness: These were seconded with regular Features, and a fine Complexion; and a Shape and Gesture so graceful and majestick, that every Part help'd to make the Composure admirable; so that none could view her, without carrying War to the Heart, and giving the Soul a hot Alarm of extraordinary Emotions. But could the Power of Words represent her Soul to our Imagination, as well as they might paint the Charms of her Person, we should yet be entertained with better Wonders. All that Report ever spake, (says *Monf. CALPRANEDE*) of the most sublime and refin'd Virtue, will serve to express but an imperfect Ray of *Mariamne's* Worth; and in those great and frequent Occasions, which called her to the Trial, she gave Proofs of it, that could not be seen and not admired. Her Constancy shin'd in her Afflictions, her Patience in the Persecution which she suffered without the least repining. And that prodigious Force of Spirit taught her to endure a Husband, whom she had so much Reason to hate, and one so contrary to all her Inclinations, fixed her like an unshaken Rock, beat off all the Batteries of her malignant Fortune, and took all those
Out-

Outrages (in which another Spirit would have found out Reasons for Revenge) with a Temper that never so much as bow'd it self to the least Thought, that might unbeseem the Grandeur of her Courage.

But if the Composition of her Soul was daring and masculine, how was it over-match'd by that of *Herod* ! The Grandeur of his Form and Make, the Austerity of his Eyes and Features were Indications of his rigid and ambitious Soul. He was subtle and designing in Attempts to aggrandize himself ; and neither stopp'd by the Regards of Law, or Religion, from putting those Attempts into Execution. In short, Nature and Constitution made him a Tyrant, whose Pride only could be subdued by, and stoop to, the Attractions of Beauty. But so impetuous was his Temper, so susceptible of Suspicions, that he was equally jealous of a Partner in *Empire*, and in *Love*. We have a Demonstration of the First, in his execrable Cruelty upon the *Jewish* Infants ; because (by a Prediction, that then was little understood by him) he was apprehensive of a King who was about that Time to be born, and demand the Scepter of *Judea*. Of the latter, what more convincing Testimony can we require, than in suffering his *Marianne* to be executed, upon a Surmise of her being disloyal to his Bed, tho' his Soul at that Instant doated upon her !

It is my Lord HALIFAX'S Definition of *Jealousie*, I remember, that it is a Pain which a Man feels from the Apprehension that he is not equally belov'd by the Person whom he entirely loves. HEROD, I must own, upon the Circumstances of his Conduct, and a Marriage rather imposed, than chosen by his

Consort, had ample Reason to apprehend, that Aversion might take Place in the Breast of *Mariamne*, and extinguish the softer Impressions of Love. By the Help of the *Romans*, he had usurp'd the *Jewish* Crown, her Right by Blood and Ancestry. He had made Havock among the Relicts of the *Asmonæan* Family, a Race to which she owed her Birth and Dignity. Ambition and Interest sacrific'd her to a Man, who made his Way to her Affections, by being the Cut-throat of her Family. What then could bow her Soul to love that Husband, whose Disproportion of Manners, whose bloody Outrages committed in the Butchering her Kindred, whose Usurpation of the Crown, which in Right belong'd to young *Aristobulus* her Brother, were potent Inducements to arm her with the Sentiments of Aversion, Disdain, and vengeful Retaliation? Yet she liv'd in a most admirable Moderation with him, and by an Excess of Virtue, did Violence upon her Inclinations.

But I am stepping too far into the Particulars of an History, which ought to be deduc'd more regularly to the Readers. As all the Claim of *Herod* to the Crown of *Jewry*, (unless his Usurpation can be called a Title) was founded on his Marriage with *Mariamne*, I think I shall not need to make any Apology, for opening the Story with an Account of the *Asmonæan* Family, from which that Princess, as is before observ'd, deriv'd her Birth; and making a succinct Detail of the Steps which *Herod* took to supplant her Kindred, and ingraft himself upon the Throne of her Ancestors. I shall endeavour to make his Abstract so different from a dry Genealogical Relation, that it shall contain Matter, and Scenes of Action, which 'tis hop'd may be a Subject of Entertainment.

ALEX.

ALLEXANDER IANNÆUS, of the *Asmonæan* Race, committing, upon his Death Bed, the Care of his Kingdom of *Judæa* to the prudent and skilful Management of his Wife *Alexandra*, under her Tuition he left his two Sons, *Hyrcanus* and *Aristobulus*. She, with such Dexterity and Address, manag'd the Quarrel, which had long depended between her deceas'd Husband, and the *Pharisees*, a molt prevailing Sect at that Time with the *Jews*, that she not only procured an honourable Interment for her Husband, but had the Government of the Realm settled upon herself; which, after nine Years Possession, she left, with this Character; that as, indeed, she was ambitious both of Honour and Command beyond measure, yet withal was she intent upon her Business, and highly industrious, to the Reproach of the Ignorance, and Mal-Administration of but too many Masculine Governors. She kept herself strictly to Moderation, and continu'd, living and dying, in an untainted Reputation for her Integrity and Justice. Nothing was wanting in her both for Wisdom and Policy, and had she not given in too much to the Rule of the *Pharisees*, to which in great measure she was compell'd by necessary Maxims in Government, no Exceptions could have been made to her Administration.

The different and contradictory Tempers of these two Brothers, whom *Alexandra* had left to contend for the *Judaic* Crown, gave Rise not only to frequent intestine Divisions and Animosities, but to the Nations being subdu'd by the *Roman* Power, and, after, of having a foreign Person of private Extract to be settled upon their Throne, contrary to their Hopes and Expectations.

Hyrcanus, in whom the Right of Primogeniture was vested, was of a Nature too soft and easy to submit

mit himself to the Cares and Anxieties that attend the weilding of a Scepter. He had ever been averse to Business, having no Ambition to reign, and therefore had no Inclination to exert his Interest to obtain a Crown, but leaving all Things to Chance, sat down a contented Creature under all Mutations of Fortune ; while his younger Brother, *Aristobulus*, was of a bold and enterprizing Mind, and affecting Sovereignty, thought nothing too hard to undergo in order to obtain a Crown.

From two such Characters we might easily be induc'd to believe, that, upon an Accommodation between the Brothers, all Affairs might have an amicable Conclusion, and the Kingdom be settled in a lasting Tranquillity. Of this, indeed, there seem'd some hopeful Presages ; for after *Hyrcanus*, (who had the Wife and Children of his Brother in safe Custody) had, at the Instigation of others, engaged his Brother in Battle, and was routed by him ; before Matters proceeded to farther Extremities, he came to this Agreement with his Brother, that *Aristobulus* should be establish'd both in the Priesthood and Throne, and *Hyrcanus* should content himself with such Honours and Privileges, as properly belong to the Dignity of the King's Brother. This Reconciliation was interchangeably publish'd in the Temple, and then each departed to their exchang'd Habitations ; *Aristobulus* was receiv'd into the Palace, and *Hyrcanus* return'd to *Aristobulus*'s House.

This unexpected Advancement of the younger Brother, being thus amicably concluded on and executed, seem'd to promise a Series of Peace and mutual Concord between all Parties : But *Antipater*, a Person of *Idumean* Extract, could not sit down so patient-
ly

ly with this Exchange. He had his Education in the Court of *Alexander Iannæus* and *Alexandra*, and under their Favour was advanc'd to Places of Dignity and Profit; in which time he had particularly paid his Court to *Hyrcanus*, hoping to rise to greater Honours, when he should succeed to the Imperial Crown; but upon this Resignation, finding all his Measures broke, and his former Engagements to *Hyrcanus* having made him obnoxious to this present King, he was resolv'd to secure himself by an After-Game, and making use of his Interest with *Hyrcanus*, by his artful Insinuations, he so prevail'd over that indolent Prince, as once more to engage him to stand in Competition for the Crown, and seek to recover that Right, which by Force of Arms he had in great Measure been oblig'd to resign.

All these Arts would have fail'd of stirring up this easy Prince, had he not prevail'd on him to believe that his Life was in Danger; and that he had nothing to choose, but either to reign or die; for as the Right of Government was really vested in him, his Brother would ever regard him with a jealous Eye, and take the first Opportunity of fixing himself upon the Throne, by his Death. By these Arguments he was rous'd up to fly from *Judea* to *Aretas* the *Arabian* King; who arming in his Cause, marches into *Judea*, and forces *Aristobulus* into *Jerusalem*, which he besieg'd.

At this Time the Great *Pompey* was prosecuting his Conquests in *Syria*, and upon his coming to *Damascus*, the two Brothers address'd him to interpose his Authority, and decide this Contest between 'em. He generously gave 'em a Hearing; but not immediately passing a definitive Sentence, *Aristobulus*, by Nature rash and impatient, departed much displeas'd, and by making

making necessary Preparations for War, not only drew on him the Power of the *Romans* to his own Ruin and Captivity, but made the whole *Jewish* Nation to become a *Roman* Province, and hold that Sovereign Authority, which they were permitted to exercise, dependent on them.

Now had *Antipater* gain'd his Ends, by fixing an easy Prince upon the Throne, whom he could rule and govern according to his own good Pleasure; this was the utmost his Ambition aim'd at, and this was the Means by which his Son unexpectedly came to mount that Throne, which he had no Claim to by Birth. Tho', to be faithful to his Merit, it cannot be deny'd but that the *Jewish* Nation has several Obligations to him, in general; and *Hyrchanus* ow'd all that he had to him, in particular. He was a Person of Wisdom and Courage, of a deep Penetration in the Arts and Mysteries of State, and who knew as well as any Man, how to ingratiate himself with the conquering Party; nor do we find any Records of his abusing that Influence he had over the King, his main Design being only to raise himself and his Posterity to Glory.

Of this *Antipater's* Extra&t, we have different and contradictory Accounts; some, who by Adulation, would insinuate themselves into the Favour of his Son *Herod*, undertook to derive his Pedigree from one of the principal *Jews* that return'd to *Jerusalem* from the *Babylonish* Captivity; whilst others, who with Envy saw a Stranger bear such Sway in their native Country, endeavour'd as much to lessen his Character, and vilify his Person, by reporting that he was no better than the Son of one *Herod*, who was Sexton of the Temple of *Apollo* at *Ascalon*; and that being taken Captive, by some Thieves of *Idumaea*, while a Child, and his
Father

Father being so poor as not to be able to redeem him, he was made a Slave in that Country, and as such bred up in the *Idumaean* Religion, (which was then the same with That of the *Jews*) and from this mean Original grew up to that Grandeur which he after arriv'd to; and from this Opinion taking root amongst the Populace, himself and Family frequently lay under the Reproach of being an *Idumaean* Slave. But if we may credit so good an Author as *JOSEPHUS*, we shall be convinc'd that his Extract was not base nor infamous; but that he was descended of a Noble Family, and his Father had been Governor of that Country of *Idumaea*.

I have already taken notice, that *Antipater's* main Design being to advance himself and Family to Honour, he took all Opportunities of procuring such Places for his Sons, in which he thought they would shine most, and give the greatest Demonstrations of a bright and noble Genius. Of these (for he had four, *Phasael*, *Herod*, *Joseph*, and *Pheroras*, and one Daughter named *Salome*) none had so great a Share of Success as *HEROD*, surnamed the *Great*. He, pursuing all the politick Maxims of his Father, rais'd himself to a Grandeur, equal to most of his Predecessors, and superior to any of his Successors; and to this the Gratitude, as well as Indolence of *Hyrchanus*, was vastly contributing: He was entirely sensible that he both gain'd and preserv'd the Crown by the prudent Management of *Herod's* Father, and he took care to shew the Sense he had of past Favours, to the surviving Representatives of his dear Friend, his Children.

The Intestine Wars of the *Romans*, in the Causes of Liberty, and Arbitrary Power, not only rais'd great Commotions and Disturbances in *Italy*, the

Seat of the Empire, but throughout the whole *Roman* Government. Of these Divisions, *Herod*, who was a prudent and circumspect Observer of the several Occurrences in Life, made a provident use, and took care for the most part to engage only, where there was the greatest Prospect of Success.

His Valour and Conduct rais'd him to be General of the *Jewish* Troops, and some Provinces were assign'd to be under his Government and Protection; of this he made such Advantage, as to ingratiate himself with the Victorious Party; But the *Jews*, repining at this Advancement of a Stranger, endeavour'd to disturb him in his Government, and do him ill Offices with the *Romans*. Accordingly, upon *Antony's* coming into *Asia* to settle Matters there in the Interest of the Conquerors, after the Battle at *Philippi*, Ambassadors were sent from the *Jews* to accuse *Phasael* and *Herod* for usurping the Government from *Hyrchanus*, and abusing it to their own Use. *Antony* gave 'em a Hearing; but partly by Money and Presents, partly by *Herod's* personal Interest with *Antony*, and partly on the Stock of the ancient Friendship contracted with his Father *Antipater*, and in return of the good Offices he had met with from him; *Antony*, by Consent and Approbation of *Hyrchanus* (to whose Grandaughter, *Mariamne*, *Herod* was lately contracted) confirm'd the two Brothers in the Authority they already were possess'd of, and made 'em both *Tetrarchs*, committing the Affairs of *Judaea* to their Administration.

Fortune now seem'd to smile on *Herod*; but this Sunshine was soon eclips'd by an intervening Cloud: For *Antigonus*, the younger Son of *Aristobulus*, Brother to *Hyrchanus*, (as above related) having procured the Assistance of the *Parthians* and other foreign Powers, resolves

resolves upon the Destruction of *Herod*, (notwithstanding he had before fail'd in the like Attempt) and the Deposition of his Uncle *Hyrcaus*; in which he so well succeeded; that he got possession of the Crown, had *Phasael* the Brother of *Herod*, and *Hyrcaus* deliver'd up to him in Chains; the latter of which had his Ears bit off by his unnatural Nephew, and the former boldly beat out his own Brains, rather than become the Object of Triumph, or Cruelty: Nay, *Herod* himself was so streighten'd, that he was forc'd to make his Escape by Night, and, leaving *Judea*, took a dangerous Voyage to *Rome*, wherein he was like to have perish'd, to pay his Duty to *Antony* and *Augustus*; to whom he made an ample Recital of his own Disasters, and the Barbarity practis'd by the Usurping *Antigonus*.

The sad Story of *Herod's* Adventures, his own Misfortunes, and the Distress of his Wife *Mariamne* and her Relations, affectionately mov'd *Antony* with a generous Compassion for him. The Honourable Deference he paid to the Memory of his Father *Antipater*, from whose Friendship he had receiv'd innumerable good Offices, together with a just Reflection that from the Unsteadiness of Fortune in raising up and casting down, he might e'er long himself need the Protection of some Friendly Power, join'd with a virtuous Sense of what was due to the Character of so excellent a Person, made *Antony* determine in himself to shew some particular Mark of Favour to *Herod*: in which he had the ready Concurrence of *Augustus*, partly upon the score of Acknowledgement for former Services, and partly for old Acquaintance-sake between the two Families.

HEROD, in this Address to the Roman Power, had then undoubtedly no other Views than to

procure the Kingdom for *Aristobulus*, the Brother of *Mariamne*, his contracted Wife, without purposing any other Advantage to himself, than that he might rule the Country under him, as his Father *Antipater* had under this *Aristobulus*'s Grandfather *Hyrchanus*. But *Antony*, to signalize his Respect to him, and, as some say, to fill his own Coffers (a Fine being to be paid to him for this Coronation) contrary to an ancient Custom of the *Romans*, commonly practis'd in such Cases, not to pass over the Royal Line of any dependant Kingdom, and grant the Crown to one that was an Alien to it, procur'd this Grant for *Herod*.

A Senate upon this Occasion was conven'd, into which *Herod* being introduc'd, his own Merits and the good Offices of his Family towards the *Roman* People were amply related, and *Antigonus* set forth as a publick Enemy, and one whose Insolence deserv'd Chastisement, in presuming to accept of a Crown from the *Parthians* Hands, in Contempt of the *Roman* Authority. Upon which the royal Dignity was decreed to *Herod* by the unanimous Suffrage of the whole Assembly, and *Antigonus* declar'd an Enemy to the *Roman* State.

Upon the breaking up of the Senate, *Herod* was conducted by the Consuls, and Senators, and other Magistrates up to the Capitol; *Octavius* and *Antony* going on each side of him: and the Decree being there deposited among the publick Records of the State, he was solemnly inaugurated into the Kingdom according to the *Roman* Usage. *Antony* congratulated the new King upon his Accession to his Authority with a most magnificent Treat upon the first Day of his Reign.

But

But as yet he was but a King in *Embryo*, having an empty Title, but no People to govern ; in order therefore for the acquiring these Dominions, thus bestow'd upon him, he made all Expedition back to *Judæa*, where being supported by the *Roman* Power, and the Assistance of his Friends, he immediately set himself to the expelling of his declar'd Enemy, and the relieving those, who, on his account, were reduc'd to the last Distress. His Mother, Wife, Sister and other Relations, as well as Friends, were strongly besieg'd by *Antigonus* ; and were brought to such Extremities, that they were once upon the point of making a desperate Attempt to abandon the Town, and take their Flight to *Arabia*.

HEROD, as well out of a tender Affection to his betroth'd *MARIAMNE*, (who was a Lady of the greatest Beauty, and the greatest Merit of any of her Time) as to give Demonstration of his Piety and filial Tenderneſs, after the securing a Place of the utmost Importance to him, march'd immediately to their Relief ; and having rais'd the Siege, and receiv'd all his Friends, he march'd back to joyn *Ventidius's* Lieutenant, and with him to invest *Jerusalem*, thereby to render himself Master of the whole *Jewish* Nation.

But notwithstanding that his Army encreas'd daily, and that *Galilee* was almost entirely in his Interest, and several other Towns declar'd themselves his Friends, he found it a Work of Labour and Time to settle himself in the full and absolute Possession of the Throne, to which *Mark Antony's* Friendship had rais'd him ; for *Antigonus*, partly by Bribery, and partly by his Interest and Policy, impeded the
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Prosecution of this Affair with that Vigour which was expected. *Ventidius's* Lieutenant, *Silo*, was not free from Corruption, a modish Vice at that time; and *Antigonus*, who well knew the Prevalency of Gold, took care to make that his Mediator upon all Occasions: *Herod*, tho' his Power was great, could not, neither dar'd to act in Opposition to the *Romans*; and *Silo* was too sensible of his own Interest to assist *Herod*, as in Duty he was commanded: *Judaea*, in the mean time, was a miserable Scene of Desolation and Ruin.

But all these Misfortunes terminated in Time to *Herod's* Glory; for after many gallant Acts, wherein he acquir'd great Reputation, he march'd to *Antony*, then besieging *Samosata*, with Intent to give him an Account of his Treatment in *Judaea* by the *Romans*, and to assist him in the Reduction of that Place. He made what Dispatch he could, and at his Arrival put a quick End to the Siege; for he destroy'd a Multitude of the *Barbarians*, and a great Part of the Booty fell to his Share. He stood highly endear'd to *Antony* on account of former Obligations, but more upon this Occasion than ever, which contributed exceedingly to his Honour, and the Establishment of the *Jewish* Crown upon his Head; for the Surrender of the Town, putting an End to the War, *Antony* gave the Government of the Province, and the Command of the Army to *Sofius*, with strict Orders to assist *Herod* upon all Occasions. *Sofius* hereupon sent away two Legions with the King to *Judaea*, for the Guard of his Person; and march'd afterward himself with the rest of the Army.

Upon his Return to *Judaea*, after having taken Revenge for his Brother *Joseph's* Death, who in an
unadvis'd

unadvise'd Engagement, which was contrary to his Brother's exprefs Command, had been slain by *Antigonus's* Party, he brought a great Army into the Field, and laid close Siege to *Jerusalem*. His Affairs having now a most favourable Aspect, and all things promising to succeed according to his Wish, he left his Army besieging *Jerusalem*, and repair'd to *Samarina*, there to consummate his Marriage with *Mariamne*, whom he had left in that Town, during the intestine Commotions in *Judaea*, for her greater Security.

Herod, in these Nuptials, not only gratified his Delight and Satisfaction, for she was a most beautiful Lady; but strengthen'd his Interest and Claim to the *Jewish* Crown. She was doubly descended from *Alexander Jannæus*, formerly mention'd, to whom she was great Grandaughter both by Father and Mother. This *Alexander*, as we observ'd in the Opening of this History, left two Sons, *Hyrchanus* and *Aristobulus*; *Hyrchanus* had an only Daughter call'd *Alexandra*, who intermarrying with *Alexander*, the eldest Son of *Aristobulus*, and Brother to *Antigonus*, the present Competitor with *Herod*, had by him *Mariamne*, and a Son nam'd *Aristobulus*, for whom *Herod* pretended to be endeavouring to procure the Crown at the Hands of *Antony*, as above related, when there was a Present made of it to himself.

This was one of the greatest Acts of Policy that ever *Herod* was Master of; for the *Jews* of those times having generally a zealous Veneration and Affection for the *Asmonæan* Family, *Herod* thought by marrying this Lady, he should the easier reconcile the People to him; and this made him so earnest for the Consummation. The Event in some measure

sure answer'd his present Expectations, and more firmly secured to him the Affections of those Friends he already had, and the bringing over many more. After the Nuptial Solemnity was over, he return'd to the Siege of *Jerusalem*, which with *Sofus* he prosecuted with the utmost Vigour: And altho' the Besieg'd made a noble Defence (for the Town held out six or seven Months) yet being inferior to the *Romans* in Conduct, and the Military Art, they were at length over-power'd, and *Antigonus* in a mean and abject manner submitting himself to *Sofus*, who thereupon in derision call'd him *Antigona*, was put in Chains, and sent to *Antony* then at *Antioch*. And this put an end to the Reign of the *Asmonæan* Family, who from *Judas Maccabæus* had held the Reins of Government for above 120 Years.

Tho' the taking this Metropolis was the establishing *Herod* in the entire Exercise of his Royal Authority over *Judæa*, yet it freed him not from Apprehensions of Danger, should *Antigonus* be preserved. His first Business was to promote and provide for such as were his Friends, having amass'd the Royal Furniture; with that rich Booty in Goods, Gold, and Silver that had been taken away by the wealthy Citizens, he made a mighty Present to *Antony* to secure his Friendship, and at the same time to procure the Death of *Antigonus*, the better to fix the Crown upon his own Head.

Antigonus not only took the Crown upon him, but also the arduous and honourable Office of High Priest, it having been a Custom since the Rule of the *Maccabees*, for the *Jews* to be govern'd by their High Priest; thereby connecting in one, the Supreme Civil and Ecclesiastical Power. *Herod* being

apprehensive of some Mischief arising from this Custom, sent for *Ananel*, an obscure Priest residing in *Babylon*, and a Descendant of those who had settled there after the *Babylonish* Captivity, to take upon him the Pontifical Office. What chiefly recommended him to this Choice, was the Obscurity and Meanness of the Man; that being a Person without Interest or Credit, he might not, by virtue of his high Station, interfere with the Royal Authority.

This Proceeding in prejudice of *Aristobulus*, the Brother of *Mariamne*, and the last of the *Asmonæan* Race, highly exasperated his Mother *Alexandra*, the Daughter of *Hyrchanus*. She was a Woman of a great Spirit, as well as a great Understanding; and knowing that her Son had an equal Claim to the Crown and the High Priesthood, could not patiently sit down and see him depriv'd of both. In this Discontent she wrote to *Cleopatra*, to mediate in her behalf with *Antony*, that the Pontificate might be conferr'd on *Aristobulus*. This Letter did not gain an immediate Answer; but *Gellius*, a Favourite of *Antony's*, being at that time in *Judæa*, had the good Fortune to see *Aristobulus* and *Mariamne*, whom he look'd upon to be two of the most graceful Persons that ever his Eyes beheld. He complimented *Alexandra* upon being the Parent of two such noble Personages, and was lavish, even to Flattery, in their Praises. He recommended it to her, to make a Present of their Pictures to *Antony*, assuring her it would procure any good Office she could desire from *Antony*. Upon this Consideration, she sent the Pictures by *Gellius*; who having determin'd to engage the Mind of *Antony* by the Charms of the beautiful *Mariamne*, he with the most exuberant Praises set forth the Ornaments of her Person,

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son so much beyond the ordinary Rate of Flesh and Blood, that she seem'd rather an Angel, than one of Human Race. This work'd up *Antony* to a Passion for the beauteous *Mariamne*; but partly in regard to *Cleopatra*, partly out of respect to *Herod*, his faithful Ally, he stifled the publick owning of it. But he wrote to *Herod*, with an Invitation to *Aristobulus*, if it stood with his Convenience.

Herod, who, with his Jealousy, had a most penetrating Eye into the Plots and Contrivances of others, was too jealous of the Consequences which might attend his suffering *Aristobulus* to go to *Antony*, to give his Consent. However, he handsomely excused himself to *Antony*; and, tho' much against his Inclination, gratify'd his Wife and Mother in deposing *Ananel*, and advancing *Aristobulus* to the Pontificate.

Aristobulus was right Heir to the Crown, which *Herod*, by the Favour of the *Romans*, enjoy'd: He was a very beautiful young Man, tall and graceful to admiration, having all the personal Advantages of Comeliness, and the Dignity of a great Soul, in the very Face of him. He was the Hope and Admiration of the People of the *Jews*, on whom they had built great Expectations of future Felicity; and so sanguine were they in their good Wishes for him, and so imprudent in the publick acknowledging of 'em, that their very Love contributed to the Destruction of the beloved Object. *Herod* look'd upon these Testimonies of their Affection with a jealous Eye, and therefore determin'd with himself to get rid of so formidable a Rival; for which purpose he laid the following Scheme.

Upon the breaking up of the Feast of the Tabernacles, *Herod* took part of an Entertainment with

with *Alexandra* at *Jerico*, and engag'd *Aristobulus* to bear him company. After Dinner was over, several of the Retinue withdrew, into the Cool of the Shade, to certain large Fish-ponds there at hand, with a purpose to bathe: the Heat of the Season being too great to admit of any stirring Exercise. *Aristobulus* was tempted to bathe with 'em, which he, fearless of any private Treachery, readily comply'd with; but no sooner was he plung'd in the Water, but his Companions, more treacherous than that Element, who had it before given in charge how to behave themselves, began to sport with each other; and laying hold on this Opportunity, they kept dipping and ducking *Aristobulus*, and held him so long under Water, that he was really drown'd. This was done under the pretence of Diversion, and all Endeavours were used to make it pass for an unfortunate Accident, consequent to an innocent Frolick.

Never was greater and more universal Lamentation made, than for this promising Youth, who was the Darling of the Jewish Nation; in which Grief, *Herod* shew'd himself most deeply affected. His Hypocrisy extended itself to the acting the part of a great Mourner; and cloath'd his Looks, his Words and Behaviour with such a Garb of Sincerity and unaffected Sorrow, as might have easily deceiv'd some of the most cautious and least susceptible of Credulity. He commanded his Body to be interr'd with all the Funeral Pomp and Solemnity that could be paid to the most sublime Merit, or the greatest of Friends: And this piece of Magnificence he shew'd to the Memory of this deserving Prince, with a View of taking off the Reproach which otherwise he apprehended would fall on him, on suspicion of his being privy to this barbarous Act.

Such was the disastrous End of *Aristobulus*; a Prince so accomplished, that Nature seem'd to have fram'd him to be the Object of Desire and Admiration: A Prince, in whom was stor'd all the Glory of the Royal House of the *Asmonæans*; who was to have married the Mitre with the Diadem, and rais'd all the Hopes of a lost Race! But those Hopes were cut short by this most treasonable Practice, in an Age, in a Beauty, in an Innocency, which made the Accident as full of Pity, as it was unfurnish'd of Remedies.

In the general Lamentation which attended this Disaster, *Alexandra* his Mother, and the Royal *Mariamne*, bore an ample Share. *Alexandra* had reason to be the chief Mourner, and it was an Aggravation of her Calamity, that tho' she was convinc'd of the Treachery and its Author, she was yet glad to dissemble that Knowledge for fear of a worse Mischiefe. Such, however, was the Outrage of her Despair, that she was many times about to lay violent hands upon herself: but still she check'd her Passion, in hopes that if she could but survive the Sense of the flagitious Murther, without discovering what she knew of the Contriver of it, she might live to see an Opportunity of Revenge. The sad *Mariamne*, altho' infinitely patient, had much ado to resist the impetuous Violences of so just a Sorrow. She lov'd this Brother of hers most dearly, as her true Image, and as the last Hope of her sinking House.

But, slow was the Comfort of this artful Disimulation to a Mother's Agony, pushing for Revenge: She soon joins the Passion of her Sorrow to the Resolution of her Vengeance; and gave notice to *Cleopatra* of all that had pass'd in so pathetical a Letter,

Letter, that every Word seem'd to be steep'd in Tears of Blood. *Cleopatra*, who had ever been ready to serve *Alexandra*, contracted so generous a Compassion for her upon this Occasion, that she espoused her Interest as her own: and press'd and ply'd *Antony* with perpetual Importunities, to see Justice done upon the Author of so barbarous a Murther. She laid before him, the Baseness of the Thing, and how dishonourable it would be for him to suffer a King of his own making, and the Usurper of another Man's Right, to commit so horrid an Outrage upon the lawful Heir of the Government, and to come off at last unpunish'd.

Antony, who knew *Herod* to be his Creature, would not willingly understand these Complaints: notwithstanding, to satisfy the Importunities of *Cleopatra*, he protested to her with the most solemn Vehemence, that he would send for *Herod* and examine the Business; and if he were found guilty of such a Villany, he would inflict an exemplary Punishment upon him. *Antony*, accordingly, going early that Year into *Syria* (in which Journey *Cleopatra* accompanied him) he cited *Herod* there to appear before him to answer this heinous Accusation.

This Summons was an unexpected Clap of Thunder to *Herod*, which most powerfully awaken'd him when he least thought of it, and put such Terrors upon him as are not to be imagin'd. On one side, he had before him the Image of his Offence, and the Voice of Blood, which rung in his Ears: On the other side, he saw all his Fortune depended on *Mark Antony*, who at that time transacted nothing but by the Counsel of *Cleopatra*, his mortal Enemy. But no Fears or Considerations so much

much troubled his Brain, as a furious Jealousy : For he imagin'd that *Antony*, a licentious wanton Prince, one that courted all the Princely Beauties in the World, had the like Design on his Wife, whose Picture he formerly had ; and that, with the more ease to enjoy her Embraces, he would make him serve as a Sacrifice for the fatal Amour. While he was under these Perplexities, he was irresolute and doubtful what Course to steer : One while, he seem'd to resolve to undergo a voluntary Banishment ; one while, to meet his Death, rather than to stand an Enquiry which he knew not how to answer.

Antony, in the mean time, pressing for his Summons to be answer'd, Delays and Excuses but thrust *Herod* into further Suspicions : Necessarily, he must go ; or refusing, submit to drop the Interest of *Antony*, and with it, his Kingdom. Here, therefore, is to be observ'd the Hypocrisy of the Man ! He takes his Leave with the most complaisant Formality of his Mother-in-Law *Alexandra*, and his Wife *Mariamne* ; without seeming to be amaz'd, without Complaint, or Appearance of Discontent, and as if he had only a short Journey of Pleasure to take.

Herod, on leaving *Judaea* to go to *Antony*, as he had a particular Confidence in his Sister *Salome*, appointed her Husband *Joseph*, who was likewise his Uncle, to have the Administration of the Government, and the Care of his Family during his Absence. This Honour was to be seconded with a further Trust, which was to be repositied with the utmost Secrecy. A double Jealousy of *Antony* stuck upon his Thoughts ; and if the first Part of his Fears happen'd to be executed on himself, he was resolv'd

resolv'd to provide a Prevention against the second, which he most dreaded, on the Person of *Mariamne*. He therefore took *Joseph* aside before his Departure, and gave him the following solemn Charge.

Uncle, (said he) you are no Stranger to the Occasion which transports me to *Laodicea*, which truly is a severe Difficulty upon me, seeing my Innocence is assaulted by powerful and secret Malice; which would be so much the more dreadful, if it had as much Effect as it carries Passion. But I hope to find Day-light through the Storm, and that you shall see me return triumphant over Calumny thro' my Integrity, as I have already rais'd Trophies over Hostility by the Force of my Arms. If God shall otherwise dispose of me, be assur'd, it is a meer Plot prepar'd against me for the Beauty of my Wife, on whom Mark Antony may perhaps have some Design; and this may be a Cause to shorten my Days, that he thereby may get more Liberty for his unbridled Passion. But I for the present conjure you, by the Love which I have born you, by my Fortune which you reverence, by Blood and Nature; if, happily, you hear I am otherwise used than my Quality and Innocence demand, never let the Death of Herod be waited on with the Injury of his Bed. Preserve the Kingdom for yourself and Offspring, and cause my Wife instantly to take her Leave of this World to accompany me in the other. Kill her courageously, lest another enjoy her after my Death: for if the Souls of the Dead have any Feeling of the Affairs of this World, That shall serve me for a Consolation.

Joseph, tho' startled at the extravagant Proposition, implicitly promises to perform to the Tenour of it, if Necessity should fatally require: And *Herod* sets forth his compulsive Journey, with Confidence in his Countenance, but Despair in his Heart.

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While the Tyrant was absent, *Joseph*, by virtue of his delegated Power, made frequent Visits to the Royal *Mariamne*, sometimes to treat of the Affairs of State with her, sometimes to pay his Compliment as to his Sovereign. Frequent Interviews created a Passion in him, which all his Reason, and the Improbability of Success, could not hinder. His growing Fondness, it seems, made him unguarded in his Conduct, and lavish in his Tongue : And Occasion offering to mention *Herod's* Love for *Mariamne*, a Topick which *Alexandra* her Mother oppos'd with Warmth and Derision, *Joseph*, in the Fulness of his Heart told the Queen, That whatever the Opinion of *Alexandra* might be, he could give a clear and ample Testimony of his Kinsman's ardent Affection : For in case, added he, Severities should be practis'd on his Safety by the Sentence of *Antony*, he has commanded me, by the strongest Ties, to kill you ; not being able to support the Thought of your surviving him, and being enjoy'd by his Rival, to whose Passion he falls a Victim.

At this Discovery, *Mariamne* turn'd pale with Horror ; and the Barbarity of the Injunction made such an Impression on her, that she construed it an Effect of his Tyrannick Disposition, and not an Effort of the Vehemence of his Passion.

It was not long before *Herod* return'd to *Judaea*, (contrary to the Expectations of many, certain Rumours having been spread of his Death) and prided himself in the Testimonies of his Justification, and the renew'd Friendship of *Antony*. Upon his Arrival, his Ears were fill'd with strange Representations of Things that had happen'd in his Family during his Absence : *Salome*, his Sister, a Woman of

an inveterate and implacable Spirit, and one who hated the Queen for her Beauty and Virtues, told him all that Memory or malicious Invention could suggest to prejudice her in the Opinion of *Herod* : She fill'd his Head with a Jealousy of her being disloyal, accusing her of having too great a Familiarity with *Joseph* ; and thereby she endeavour'd to work the Destruction of Both, tho' *Joseph* was both her Uncle and Husband : but the invidious *Salome* was content to sacrifice him, so she might wreak her Revenge on the Queen. For *Mariamne*, being a Lady of excellent Beauty, and high-born, and on both these accounts of as high a Spirit, she look'd down upon *Salome* as one of a low Original in respect of her, and had reproach'd her with it, which *Salome* receiv'd in deep Resentment ; determining with herself to be reveng'd on her, at any Hazard or Expence : and this was the Reason of her present Accusation against her.

This, at first, put *Herod* into a furious Fit of Jealousy against his Wife ; for as his Love to her was very great, so his Jealousy bore a proportionable Excess of Passion. But when the Violence of his Rage was over, and the first Assaults of that turbulent Passion had lost their Force in a more cool and sedate Reflection on his Sister's Accusation, he was soon convinc'd of *Mariamne*'s Innocence : And with all the Submission that returning Love, or the Sense that an unjust Accusation of the brightest Virtue could prompt him to, he most humbly begg'd her Pardon for his too easy Credulity, in imagining her spotless Chastity could be infected with the least Taint or Corruption ; and in the Height of this rapturous Extasy of Love, made many Protestations of that ardent and inviolable Affection he bore

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her. These Asseverations brought 'em in conclusion to Tears and Embraces, Consequences usual in such *Love-Encounters* ; and the more diffident *Mariamne* appear'd of the good Faith of *Herod's* Affection, the more eager and solicitous was he to confirm her in the Assurance of it. This betray'd *Mariamne* to a Weakness, which otherwise she might have guarded herself against ; and engag'd her to reveal that Secret, so fatal to herself, and those with whom it was entrusted. Yes, yes, said she, 'twas a notable Sign of a loving Husband, indeed, to order the putting of his innocent Wife to death, in case he should happen to die himself.

At these Words, surpriz'd into a fresh Fit of jealous Rage, he flung himself out of her Arms, tearing his Hair, and crying out like a Mad-man : *It is now as clear as the Sun*, said he, *that Joseph has corrupted my Wife ; for nothing less than the Power of such a Confidence, could ever have extorted from him a Secret that was committed with so much Caution and Trust.* In this Transport and Impotency of Passion, he had it in his Thought to lodge his Dagger in the Breast of the fair *Mariamne* ; but his ardent Affection, checking the first Start of his impetuous Anger, he overcame, tho' with much difficulty, this Provocation. But the Violence of his Wrath was vented all upon *Joseph* and *Alexandra* : The first he put to death, without so much as giving him Leave to plead in Justification of his Innocence and Integrity, and the other he put in Chains, and lock'd her safe up in Prison ; looking upon her to be the Root and Cause of all the Mischief that disturb'd his Family.

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What Resentment and Behaviour *Mariamne* shew'd upon these two violent and extraordinary Acts of *Herod*, the Murther of a Man, by Marriage his near Relation, (who was no otherwise chargeable with Guilt, than an imprudent revealing a Secret of the last Importance, tho' with design to promote, not obstruct, the Love of *Mariamne* to her Husband) and the Confinement of her Mother, History affords us no Light into. But if we may ground an Opinion upon probable Conjecture, that Sweetness of Temper, which added Lustre to her other Charms, and that Patience and Resignation, which her Religion had with the deepest Impressions fix'd on her Mind, could never give leave to her indulging even a Thought of Revenge upon her Husband, to whom, by the most sacred Ties, she ow'd all Duty and Obedience : And *Herod's* returning Affection soon prevail'd on her soft Nature, flexible at all Times with the greatest ease to any good Action ; and restor'd in some measure Peace and Tranquillity to the Family, which but for her excellent Condescension, must have been a Scene of perpetual Discord and Contention.

For some few Years, *Herod* enjoy'd the full Prosperity of a peaceable Possession of the Jewish Throne, till a fatal Accident happen'd, which not only affected him, but indeed the whole World besides. *Augustus*, the Roman Emperor, had receiv'd frequent Indignities, and Marks of Contempt from *Antony*, but most especially was he provok'd at the Slight past upon his Sister *Octavia*, whom *Mark Antony* had forsaken for the Embraces of a lascivious and infamous Woman.

This Difference grew to such a Height, that notwithstanding the Mediation, and Intercession of the greatest Personages, and those of supreme Authority, Friends to Peace in general, and to the contending Parties in particular, no Accommodation could be brought about : But each raising what Forces they could, at last came to an Engagement. *Herod* was desirous of assisting his Friend *Antony*, to whom upon the Score of antient Favours, he had the greatest Obligations ; in this, from the over-ruling Power of *Cleopatra*, he was prevented, and by *Antony* commanded to march against the *Arabians*, and not bring his Men to Battle against *Octavius Caesar*. This designing Woman had a double Prospect in this Expedition. She hated *Herod*, among other things, for having refus'd to comply with her Sollicitations to unlawful Embraces ; nor was the *Arabian King* better in her good Graces ; and thence she propos'd to herself, that whoever of the contending Parties should fall, she should gain the conquer'd Kingdom to herself, and thereby encrease her annual Revenues : for as she was vastly vicious and extravagant, so was she equally ambitious and covetous of Wealth and Honour.

Tho' *Herod* was thus prevented in serving personally against *Augustus*, yet he was too sensible of the Favour and Friendship he had always shewn to *Antony*, to imagine that *Augustus* could look upon him in any other Character, than that he was in the Roll of his profess'd Enemies. The fatal Battle at *Actium* having decided the Fate of the Empire, and brought *Rome* under the entire and absolute Government of one Man ; who, no doubt, would pursue the usual Method of Conquerors in prosecuting his Revenge, on those who had

had favour'd his Adversaries, to their Destruction, and advance his faithful Followers to such Honours and Preferments as should by this means become vacant: On this account, *Herod*, who knew he had no Claim to the Title of his Friend, resolv'd by an artful Submission of himself to the Victor, to try to preserve that Crown upon his Head, which as yet stood there in a very precarious manner.

Cæsar was at this time come to *Rhodes*, after having been in *Italy*, to compose some Disturbances there among the *Veterans* for want of their Pay: Thither *Herod* determines to repair, in order to pay his Duty to him; but with little Hope or Prospect of Favour from him, toward a Man who had so heartily espoused the Cause of *Antony*, and so remarkably signalized himself upon all Occasions in his Interest. But 'twas necessary before he took his Journey, that the Affairs of his Realm should be settled in the safest manner for the Interest of his Family, and the Peace and Quietness of his People during his Absence.

Antigonus, as we have above related, was put to death by *Mark Antony* at *Antioch*; and *Aristobulus* was drown'd, bathing at *Jericho*, both at the Instigation and by the Contrivance of *Herod*, who was jealous of their Interest with the People, which might very much endanger his Crown. There remain'd now only *Hyrchanus* of all the *Asmonæan* Family, who formerly had reign'd many Years; but, upon his being overcome by *Antigonus*, he was carry'd Captive to *Parthia*, whose King had been greatly assistant in his Overthrow.

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Here he continued some time a Prisoner ; but *Phraates* getting the Crown of *Parthia*, receiv'd him into favour, releas'd him from his Chains, and gave him liberty, either to remain among the captive *Jews* in *Parthia*, as their supreme Governour, or to return into *Judaea*. *Hyrchanus* being himself good natur'd, and of a grateful Temper, made a Judgment of others from himself ; and upon hearing of *Herod's* Advancement, he flatter'd himself with the Hopes of great Returns from him, for former Favours. In consequence to this Judgment, he made it his Choice to return into *Judaea* ; in which Resolution he was the more confirm'd, from the Invitation he receiv'd from *Herod*, who in a Letter told him, that *now was the time to shew his Gratitude to the Person he stood indebted to, both for his Bread and Life*. And to make this have the greater Appearance of an honest Sincerity, he sent Ambassadors at the same time to *Phraates* with fair Words, and magnificent Presents, to prevail with him on the Behalf of *Hyrchanus*, whom he stiled, *his worthy Patron, and dear Friend*.

Hyrchanus thus releas'd, set forward in his Journey to *Judaea*, being amply supply'd with Money and Necessaries from the *Jews* in *Babylon*, for his Journey. He safely arriv'd at *Jerusalem*, where he was receiv'd by *Herod* with all the Demonstrations of Duty and Affection, which could be express'd by a Man full of a grateful Sense of former Favours, to one who merited all he had from him. He gave him the first Place at all Meetings and Entertainments, treated him in the Stile of FATHER, and carry'd every thing on with such an appearance of good Faith, that there was not the least room for any possible Doubt or Jealousy of the contrary.

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But this was all Countenance and Chicane, the better to ingratiate himself into the Affections of the People, by such a duteous Deference paid to a Person whom he had it in his power to destroy, if he thought convenient.

We have elsewhere observ'd upon the soft and indolent Temper of this Prince, and the Craft of his Daughter *Alexandra*, *Mariamne's* Mother. She was a Woman of an aspiring, turbulent Spirit, impotent in her Passions, and apt to make use of all Opportunities, which gave any prospect toward the Destruction of *Herod*; against whom she had contracted an inveterate Hate, as well for his possessing the Crown, to the prejudice of her Family, as for the Murther of her Son *Aristobulus*; tho' she endeavour'd to hide her Resentments with a specious and fair Face of Friendship: But *Herod* was of too penetrating a Judgment to be thus deceiv'd.

The Overthrow of *Mark Antony* at *Actium*, and the Shock that was given to *Herod* in the loss of this his grand Support, gave the aspiring Spirit of *Alexandra* fresh prospect of Success. She was continually pressing her Father to think of some Expedient to deliver his Family from the Oppressions of *Herod*, and provide for his own Security. Her Advice was, that he should write to *Malchus*, at that time Governour of *Arabia*, and desire his Protection, in case a convenient Opportunity should offer; grounding the Request upon this Supposition, that if *Herod* should fall under the Displeasure of *Cesar*, which was very probable, he could not fail of being restor'd to his former Dignity of the Crown, having an indisputable Right and Title to it, and the Good-will and Voices of the People concurrent to these Hopes.

Hyrcanus

Hyrcaus, little desirous of drawing on himself those Cares and Sollicitudes which attend a Crown, gave but a cool Audience to the pressing Instances of his Daughter: He was too far advanc'd in Years, worn even to Decrepidness, (for he was above Fourscore) to think of taking such a weighty Charge upon himself. No, Daughter, said he, when she urg'd this as the favourable time Fortune had mark'd out for his Restoration to regal Authority, No, the time is come wherein I should rather think of my Grave, than a regal Throne. You know what Opinion I had of Greatness, in an Age and Condition wherein rightfully I might cherish it: I voluntarily forsook it, preferring Repose before all the Crowns of the World: Now that I am in the Haven, would you recall me into the Storm? Daughter, leave such Counsels; I have seen too many Miseries; speak to me of my Grave, not of Scepters.

This Repulse, had it happen'd to any other than *Alexandra*, would certainly have put an end to all farther Sollicitations in such a Cause: But her Spirit was too aspiring, to quit her Suit upon the first Refusal. She still ply'd him strongly, insinuating that from the Examples of *Herod's* Cruelty, which were too manifest to the World to be concealed, that he could not look upon himself to be in a State of Security; and would by no means be engaged to give over her Intreaties, till she had prevail'd on him to write this Letter to the *Arabian* King. At last he comply'd with her Desires; and committed it to the Care of one whose Friendship to himself and Daughter, and Enmity justly contracted against *Herod* on many accounts, gave no possible Colour for suspicion of Treachery or Deceit.

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But all this was not sufficient to keep this Messenger faithful to the Trust reposed in him; for *Dositheus* (so he was named) was so poor in Spirit, as to seek the Favour of that Man, whom he had hated on account of his putting his Brothers and other Relations to Death; and chose rather to make an Interest with the King, than discharge himself of the Trust which was reposed in him, in Confidence of his inviolable Fidelity. *Herod*, after having perused the Letter, thank'd him for the Instance of his Kindness, and gave him Orders to proceed in his Embassy, for he said it would much concern him to know how the *Arabian* King would behave himself. *Dositheus* proceeding in his Journey, soon brought a favourable Answer back; *Herod*, upon the Receipt of this Answer, call'd *Hyrcanus* to him, and question'd him with regard to his holding Correspondence with the *Arabian*. *Hyrcanus* absolutely deny'd it, but was confronted with the *Arabian's* Answer, and order'd immediately to be put to Death.

This was the State of the Case, as published by the Order of *Herod*; but of the Truth of the Facts many doubted. Some say, that *Herod* at a publick Entertainment asked him, if he had receiv'd any Letters from *Malchus*? He answer'd, Yes; but they were Letters only of course and common Civilities. If he had received any Presents from the *Arabians*? He answer'd, Yes; four Horses for his Pleasure only. This *Herod* would have to be Treason and Corruption, and therefore order'd his immediate Execution.

I shall not engage in a Dispute upon the Probability of either of these Relations ; or how far *Hyrcanus*, who liv'd in an easy Security, could be prevail'd on to embark in such a hazardous Undertaking. But this is certain, that by the Rules and Maxims of Policy, the present Posture of Affairs obliged *Herod*, for his own Security, to remove all Pretenders to the *Judaic* Crown ; and the *Dernier* Right being vested in *Hyrcanus*, the cutting him off would intirely put an End to the *Asmonæan* Claim.

This was the End of *Hyrcanus*, after a strange Variety of Fortune, in a long and troublesome Life. He was advanc'd to the Pontificate in the Reign of his Mother *Alexandra*, upon whose Decease he succeeded to the Government. He was driven from thence, in three Months after, by his younger Brother *Aristobulus*, and by *Pompey* restor'd to the Possession of all his Dignities, which he enjoy'd for forty Years : Then a second Time he was dethron'd, by his Nephew *Antigonus*, assist-ed by the *Parthians*, and by them carried away Captive ; but upon *Phraates's* Accession to the *Parthian* Throne, was set at liberty and honourably treated : By *Herod* invited into *Judæa*, he return'd to *Jerusalem*, where he continu'd about seven Years, promising himself great Satisfaction and Quiet from his Friendship ; but after so many Turns and Crosses of a vexatious Fortune, he was put to an infamous Death in the Extremity of old Age. And tho' he was already upon the Brink, *Herod's* Impatience at this time would not suffer Nature to take its Course, but violently plung'd him headlong into that Abyss of Dark-
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ness, which he was ready to fall into by the meer Weakness of Human Nature.

So soon as *Herod* had thus dispatch'd *Hyr- canus*, his next Work was to settle both his Publick and Domestick Affairs, before he proceeded to wait upon *Octavius*. He had a strong Suspicion of *Alexandra*, and not knowing what Advantage she might make of his Absence, towards the stirring up of the People to a Rebellion, he plac'd her, with her Daughter *Mari- amne*, in *Alexandria*; and put the Government of the Fort into the Hands of two of her most try'd and valued Friends, *Joseph* his Treasurer, and *Sohemus* an *Iturean*, under a Pretext of doing Honour to the Princesses, but, indeed, to serve other Ends which he had in view: And the Government of his Kingdom he lodg'd in the Hands of his Brother *Pheroras*, the better to secure to himself the Imperial Authority, in case he should suffer under the Displeasure of *Augustus*.

All necessary Dispositions being made, and *Herod's* last Orders given to his several Deputies, he embark'd with all expedition for *Rhodes*, there to present himself before *Cesar*; revolving in his Mind the doubtful Event of this Voyage: For beside the constant Friendship he had at all times shew'd to *Antony*, he was stain'd with the bloody Marks of *Hyr- canus's* Death; which being so fresh, strongly pleaded in bar to any Favour he might hope from *Augustus*. But he was a true *Proteus*, and made his Wit subservient to his Interest: As he could not deny his steady Adherence to *Antony*, he made a Virtue of that, which he knew at

first would be imputed to him for a Crime ; and presuming upon the good Nature of *Augustus*, who was noble, generous and brave, and rewarded his faithful Followers, with all those Marks of his Esteem and Regard, which themselves could desire, he aim'd to gain his Favour by the same Plea, by which even his Friends put in their Claim ; namely, an inviolable and unalterable Fidelity to the Person of his Friend.

Upon his Arrival at *Rhodes*, he was introduced to *Cæsar*, where he presented himself without any Ensigns of Royalty and Grandeur ; his Crown in his Hand, and himself clad in the Habit of a private Man ; but with a Mein of Majesty, which gave a noble Testimony of the Greatness of his Mind ; and scorning all poor evasive Excuses and Submission, he thus frankly address'd himself to *Augustus*.

I am not come hither, great CÆSAR, says he, to disown the Sacredness of a Friendship I have ever had for Antony ; and I shall take a further Freedom to declare, that he should have been Master of the World, if I could have made him so. 'Tis true, I was not personally in the last Battle with him, for my Commission call'd me away against the Arabians ; but at the same Time I serv'd him to the utmost of my Power, with Money and Provisions ; and I was sorry I could do no more ; for such was the Tenderness I had for Antony, and such my Obligations to him, that I reckon'd my Life as much a Debt to him, and it was effectually as much at his Devotion, as my Fortune. But since I could not be with him at Actium, I must yet justify my self, that I
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had still the same Affection for his Person and Cause, after that fatal Day, that I had before: Neither did I so much as waver at this Change of Fortune, toward the changing of my Party. Nay, in those Occasions, when I could not assist him with my Arms, I never fail'd to serve him with my Advice; which was to cut off Cleopatra in Time, and seize her Kingdom into his own Hands, as the only Course in Nature to preserve him. If he had taken this Precaution, I dare appeal to Cæsar himself, whether he would not have thought it reasonable to have treated with him at this Instant upon fairer Terms; but he chose rather to go another Way to Work; and, for want of Consideration, advanc'd your Interest instead of his own. Now, if you shall think the worse of me for taking part with Antony, because you were his professed Enemy; this shall not hinder me yet from owning and justifying the Services I have done him. But if you shall be pleas'd now to consider the Quality, the Friendship, abstracted from the Circumstances of the Person, you will find in the Faith and Gratitude of the Case, somewhat perhaps that may encourage you to make Tryal of it yourself; for whether it be to Cæsar, or to Antony, the Dignity of Character will be still the same.

These Words of Herod's were delivered with such a frank and generous Air, and accompanied with so moving a Grace, that Augustus, who had in him naturally a Greatness and Benignity of Mind, was not able to resist the Charms of his Defence. He took up the Crown, which Herod had laid at his Feet, and placing it upon his Head, he said, HEROD, be safe and happy,

happy, and a King still; and be assur'd of this, your Crown shall sit firmer on your Head than ever. So good a Friend cannot but make a good Governor. Pray be as faithful to the Fortunate, as you have been to those in Adversity; and I cannot but promise my self great Things, from the Dignity of so great a Mind. As to Antony's hearkening to Cleopatra rather than to you, his Folly has made us all Gainers, for we had never had Herod else. I must not forget the Enforcements you sent to Ventidius, against Antony's Gladiators, and that you were beforehand with me in that Obligation. Wherefore, content yourself at present with the Confirmation of the Kingdom to you, and I shall take such further Care for the Future, that you may have no Loss of Antony.

Cæsar, after this Speech, with great Humanity adjur'd Herod not to doubt of his Friendship, of which he should, upon all occasions, receive most certain and indubitable Proofs; which he confirm'd by procuring for him a Decree of the Senate in his Favour, whereby he was re-instated and secur'd in the Possession of his Kingdom, which was a Felicity so much beyond Herod's Expectation, that nothing could be more surprizing to him. Upon this Establishment, he attended Augustus into Ægypt, treating both him and his Friends upon the Way with a Magnificence of Pomp, and Presents suitable to the Person and the Obligation; and every way answerable to the Largeness of his Heart; and by such Communications of Bounty and Munificence, he acquir'd the Character of the most illustrious Prince

Prince under Heaven, and one for whose Mind the Kingdom of *Judea* was too little.

Herod being much pleased with his good Success, and the Confirmation of his Crown, which, for his late Services to *Anthony*, he almost doubted *Cesar* would be inclin'd to strip him of, hasten'd his Return into his own Dominions. Upon his coming home, in the Height of all his Glory, he found a disorder'd Family, and his Wife and Mother-in-law miserably out of Humour. The Latter particularly resented her being a Prisoner in that Castle, where *Herod* pretended to have lodged her for the Security of her Person : And *Mariamne*, in whose Conversation he most delighted, was so far embittered against him, that she rejected all his Caresses with the utmost Aversion, and when he thought to please her by relating the Particulars of his Journey, and the Success, instead of taking any Satisfaction herein, she answered him only with Sighs and Groans, and such a Behaviour as plainly expressed, she would have been better pleased, had he never returned from this Journey, but had utterly perish'd in it.

It would be doing an Injury to the complacent Temper of *Mariamne*, to signify this Disgust and rigid Behaviour of hers, and not to interpret upon what Motives they were founded. When *Herod* went for *Rhodes*, I before observ'd that he left his Wife and her Mother under the Watch and Inspection of his Favourite *Sohemus*. The King departed, at every Season this their Goaler came to visit them,

them, and they expected nothing but News of their Death. It happened, as it had before fal'n out to *Joseph*, by frequent Visitations, as his Commission enjoin'd him, *Sohemus* felt fiery Arrows fly from the Eyes of *Mariamne*, which transfix'd his Heart with Compassion, and Sentiments that might flow from a softer Name. His Brow now began to be smooth'd from the Severity of a Spy and Keeper, to the Complaisance of a duteous and observant Subject. *Mariamne*, who soon discovered the Change of his Manners and Deportment, alter'd her Fears and Reserve into Affability, and entred freely into Conversation with him. *Sohemus*, said she, with a Smile, check'd by a Degree of Languishing and Sorrow, *You see us here in a State of Confinement, much unworthy of our Qualities; but the Day, perhaps, will come, that this Storm may blow over. You know who I am, and that in obliging me, you ingage not an unble Creature, much less an ungrateful. Tell me, in a Word, to what End doth Herod hold us here in Durance, and of what Condition are the Affairs of the Times?*

This Speech was delivered with such a Mixture of Majesty and Sweetness, that *Sohemus* had no Power of Resolution, or Taciturnity; and in his Zeal to oblige the Object, which had charm'd his Eyes, he flatter'd himself that *Herod* might either never return in the Quality of King, or that he being under the Protection of *Mariamne*, might easily work his Reconciliation. In Confidence of these Probabilities, *Sohemus*, with blushing Presages of doing her a Pleasure, thus address'd himself to the Queen.

Madam,

Madam, says he, I am going to venture a Secret, and with it my Life, into your Hands : And I do it with the more Joy, because I would desire to die rather than undertake the barbarous Command which Herod on his Departure impos'd upon me : that in case the Affairs he negotiateth at this time with Cæsar, succeed not according to his Wish ; I tremble only to think of it, your precious Life is to be made the Forfeit. O, my Friend, this is no Surprise, (reply'd the Queen) it is the ordinary Guise of Herod : He gave his Uncle Joseph the very same Injunction when he took his former Voyage. But is there no Means to deliver us ? Sohemus answer'd, that Pheroras, the Brother of Herod, having the Charge of the Kingdom, and being a Man of extream Distrust and Suspicion, ever had his Eye upon Surprizals, which would make Attempts dangerous and unpracticable. Well then, says Mariamne, the Result is Death, with which I am already grown acquainted.

Tho' she could practise so much Resignation under the Necessity of her Fate, she could neither forget, nor pardon, the Barbarity of her Lord, for again leaving this inhumane Order : And as often as she recollected, she could not chuse but receive him with Coldness, and express but little Sweetness or Complacency to him.

It happen'd not long after the Return of Herod, that he had sent for the Queen to attend him in his Chamber. She, whether she were busy about something more dear to her than the Sight of that cruel Man, or whether the Memory of the Injuries she had receiv'd renew'd in her Mind fresh Sentiments of Aversion, refus'd, or delay'd, to obey his Summons. He would not be satisfied not to have her attend him, but seconded his Orders with another Messenger. The

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Queen,

Queen, however loth, was oblig'd to render him this Visit, but did it with a Countenance wherein he might easily read the Reluctance she had to give him any Satisfaction. The Tyrant was nettled, and could not dissemble his Indignation; but greeting her with a discontented Look, *Madam*, said he, *I am sorry that you are oblig'd by any Law to offer the Violence to your self, which you do: And had I not this ardent Passion for you, which by your bad Usage you endeavour to banish out of my Soul as much as you can possibly, I should less often give you the Trouble of seeing a Husband, who by his Misfortune is become so odious to you.*

The Queen, who saw all the Marks of his Resentment, was now resolv'd to tower above it; therefore, looking upon him with a disdainful Eye, *I hate you not, answer'd she; the God whom we serve and my Duty forbid that: but you may well imagine that my Affections could not be strengthen'd towards you, by such bloody Displeasures as you have done me.—Ungrateful Woman!* reply'd the exasperated Tyrant, *'tis thy irreconcilable Spirit that raises these Pretences of Injuries and Displeasure, to palliate the natural Aversion thou hast against thy Husband. — Tho' I had receiv'd this Aversion, answer'd the Queen, from my Nature, I should have known how to have bridled it by my Duty; and I should have reduced my Spirit to fit Terms of Submission to an Husband, if in stead of my Husband he were not become the Murtherer of all my Friends, and my particular Persecutor. — Hitherto, reply'd Herod with encreas'd Warmth, I have not persecuted you, but with too much Love: 'Tis for that you may really reproach me; and tho' you had some Reason to accuse me for the Misfortune of your Friends, yet by the ardent Testimonies of my Love, which I give you every Moment of my Life,* these

these Resentments would have been effaced out of any Spirit but yours.

The Queen not able to dissemble her Thoughts in this Rencontre, and by too prompt a Precipitation losing part of that prudent Precaution, which she had hitherto used in the Conduct of her Life : *You forget,* said she in a disdainful manner, *to put me in mind of the most important Testimonies of your Love ; and you would not have me know the Obligations I have to you, for the Care you had of my Safety in the Voyages you made to Laodicea, and to Rhodes, to Antony, and to Augustus. It is certain,* answer'd Herod, *who did not at first apprehend the Reproach she would make him, that in spite of your Cruelty, nothing was so sensible and insupportable to me in those Voyages, as the Regret of being absent from you ; and they who saw me in that Time of Absence, observ'd sufficiently in all my Actions, that I was separated from the better Part of my self. — It was for this Reason,* answer'd the Queen, *that in both the Voyages you gave such excellent Orders, first to Joseph, and afterwards to Sohemus, for the Disposal of my Life ; and this Part of your self was so dear to you, that you were not willing Death itself should separate you from it.*

At these Words Herod seem'd to be struck with a Thunderbolt, and instantly calling to mind the Orders he had really given to Joseph and Sohemus for the death of *Mariamne*, he presently understood this Reproach. He had hitherto believ'd that she was ignorant of this second Effect of his Cruelty, and he had so order'd the Secret to those, whom he had chosen for the Ministers of his cruel Intentions, that he could not imagine that for any Consideration they could ever resolve to discover it. The Shame of seeing his Villany discover'd to that Per-

son of the World, who should have been ignorant of it, was the first Passion that possess'd him, and which fix'd his Eyes on the Earth with Shame and Indignation. Then he thought upon the ill Office he had receiv'd from his Subjects, and sigh'd with Grief and Rage for the Infidelity of those in whom he most confided. From thence he began to imagine, that *Joseph* and *Sohemus* could not have betray'd the Confidence he had in them, nor have fail'd in their Duty to him, both in regard of their Birth, and the Benefits they had receiv'd of him, but for the Love of *Mariamne*, and a Return of Passion from her.

This Thought, which threw itself with Violence into his Soul, found as much Room there to establish it self as could be: And he knowing the Powers of *Mariamne*, by the daily Proof he made of them, made no further Doubt, but that by them only the Fidelity of *Joseph* and *Sohemus* was staggered.

Jealousy, that furious Passion, to which he had naturally so much Inclination, possess'd itself incontinently of his Soul, and as in a Place taken by Assault, it presently set all on Fire. The blackest Suspicions he could conceive of the Virtue of *Mariamne*, presented themselves to his Imagination; and the Proofs he had receiv'd of it upon so many Occasions, could not in this last defend it from the criminal Impressions which established themselves in his Soul. *I am betray'd, I am undone, cry'd he, all in a Rage, both Heaven and Earth abandon me; and all those, whom I thought worthy of my Friendship and my Confidence, ungratefully unite themselves to ruin me: Ah! envious Heaven! ah! disloyal Wife!*
ah!

ah ! ungrateful, and perfidious Servants ! to what Extremities do you reduce me ?

After these Words he continued some time silent, revolving in his Mind a thousand furious Resolutions, and traversing the Chamber with an Action full of Fury and Transport. The Queen, who saw him in this Condition, little minded the Expressions of his Choler : but she repented that she had made such an unguarded Discovery ; and that by her Discourse she had exposed, to the Rage of this cruel Man, Those whole Ruin she foresaw already. She would have remedied it if she could possibly, but there was no revoking what she had said : and considering with herself of the Means to avert the Tempest, she continued in silence, not without some Confusedness, which confirm'd the jealous King in his unworthy Imaginations.

After he had continued a while in this tumultuous Condition, he approach'd the Queen with a pale and disfigur'd Countenance, and viewing her with a furious Eye from head to foot, *Those who told thee of my Intentions, said he to her, told thee but the Truth ; and it imports me nothing to deny it, that out of a violent Excess of Love I would not have left Thee after my Death, either to thy Friends, or to my Enemies : Yes, my Design was not to be separated from thee by Death itself, and I should have been too happy if I had perform'd in my Life-time, what I have commanded to be done after my Death. These perfidious Persons, who have betray'd me, have told thee nothing but the plain Truth ; but they did not dispose themselves to deceive the Confidence I had in their Friendship, and expose themselves to the Punishments which are due to their Infidelity, but upon some powerful Considerations. Thou hast, without doubt, propos'd a Recompence to them, which hath*
made

made them despise what they could expect from me, and not fear that Death which they affronted in betraying me. It was not by a Present of small Price that thou hast corrupted those Persons which had been always most faithful to me. Joseph, who is one of the most eminent Ranks in Judæa, as being my near Ally, and Sohemus, whom by my Bounty I had put into a Condition not to aspire to Riches by so dangerous a Treason, could not have been seduced by any Power inferior to thy Beauty. These are the Charms which have gain'd them, and thy Favours only have made them contemn the Dangers, which might divert them from their Treason.

Herod pronounc'd these Words with an Impetuosity which sufficiently express'd the Agitation of his Soul ; and the Queen having hearken'd to him with inimitable Patience, Say what thou wilt, said she to him, against a Person who is no longer in a Condition to receive new Offences, either by this Action, or by thy Discourse. God hath discovered to me the fatal Orders which thou gavest against my Life by other ways than thou imaginest : and those, whom thou suspectest to have reveal'd thy Secret, are not they by whom thy cruel Intentions are made known unto me.——This is thy Custom, reply'd Herod, exclaiming louder than before, to excuse thy Lovers in the bloody Outrages they do me ; and thou takest Care of their Love, who never hadst any Care of thy Husband's Repose, or thine own Reputation. Thou wouldst have render'd the like Office to the perfidious Tiberius ; and those Favours, which thou hadst prodigally bestow'd upon a barbarous Prince, are since communicated to my Allies, and descended to my Domesticks. This is the high Spirit, this is that Pride, which hitherto hath made part of our Divisions : and the haughty Blood of the Asmonæans, which disdained a King to her Husband, hath debased itself even to Sohemus.

In conclusion he loaded her with a thousand injurious Reproaches, which causing *Mariamne* to look at him with a heighten'd Disdain: *Thou mayst believe*, said she, *whatever thy Rage can inspire thee with against me; the outrageous Reproaches, which thou lay'st upon me, shew the Baseness of thy Soul, and I scorn thee too much to take any Care to defend myself against thy unworthy Accusations.*——*Thy Care would be but in vain*, eplies the Tyrant now incensed, and thou mayst reserve thy Justifications for the Defence of that Life, which I have spar'd but too long. The Time is come, that I will mock at thy Scorn, and thy Infidelities shall be punished without any Regret for thy Beauties. That Love, which hitherto hath guarded thee against my too just Resentments, shall no longer oppose itself against my Justice. I have lost that fatal Passion, which created all my Misfortunes, since I have discover'd amongst thy Lovers the basest of my Domesticks. They shall pay me part of the Offences they have done me by their Blood; and Torments shall draw such Truths out of their Mouths, as shall make thy Shame and Perfidiousness appear to the World.

While these Exaggerations of Resentment pass'd on each side betwixt the jealous Tyrant, and his innocent Consort wounded in the dearest Point, the Court and Antechambers were alarm'd with the Difference. *Mariamne*, whose Conduct had been so clear, and whose Carriage so endearing, had Friends who wept in their Hearts for her Usage, and cursed *Herod* inwardly for his barbarous Suspicions, and infamous Expressions of them. But what signified Pity, which they durst not give Words to; or an unperforming Hatred against *Herod*, who subdued their Souls, and controul'd their Actions, with an Iron Sceptre? *Mariamne* was wrapt about with
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the Snare, which wound itself in Folds too intricate and subtle, for her to hope an Escapement. So powerful is the Malice which Women conceive against Women !

For *Salome* bearing in mind the former Reproach which *Mariamne* had cast upon her, laid hold on all Opportunities of interposing by Calumnies, and Ill Offices, to inflame the outrageous, jealous Humour of her Husband against her. She ply'd him with such Suggestions, as tho' he could not absolutely reject, yet neither could he so thoroughly believe 'em, as irrevocably to destroy a Person he had so great a Kindness for, barely upon the Credit of that Evidence : But upon *Mariamne's* revealing the Secret he had entrusted *Joseph* and *Sohemus* with, all Possibility of Doubt vanish'd, and he was confirm'd in the Certainty of that Crime, of which before he was only jealous, and that by Fits. *Salome*, who had some time before suborn'd *Herod's* Cup-Bearer to engage in a Plot for *Mariamne's* Destruction, took the advantage of this Fit of Rage he was then in, and sent in this Cup-Bearer to discharge himself of the Commission she had given him in Trust ; which was, to acquaint the King that *Mariamne*, having an Intention to give *Herod* a Love-Potion, had address'd herself to him, whose Office it was to present the Cup to the King, for his Assistance herein ; to which he would never be induced to give any Countenance. His farther Instructions were, that if the King should ask what was the Composition, he should only answer, 'twas of *Mariamne's* preparing ; and for the Ingredients, that he knew nothing of 'em ; she having only requir'd the Assistance of his Hand in presenting the Cup : But in case the King should make no farther Enquiry upon this Information, he too should be silent and retire.

Big with this malicious and groundless Accusation, this hellish Instrument enter'd the Room, in the midst of all that Rage and Fury which distracted the King; and gravely and calmly depos'd to the Truth of the foregoing Particulars; and finding the King to be startled at it, he added, *that having such a Potion offer'd him, and not knowing what might be in it, he thought it safest both for his Majesty, and for himself, to wait upon him with this Information.*

The Entrance of the Cup-Bearer at this Crisis, to make this solemn Deposition, rooted the King in his Jealousy and Suspicion, and drove him to Acts of the greatest Outrage. He look'd upon *Mariamne* as an abandon'd, insatiate, libidinous Woman, and determining to make a publick Prosecution upon this Article of Jealousy, he was resolv'd to know the whole Truth at any expence. He call'd in the Officers of his Guard, and commanded 'em upon pain of Death to conduct the Queen immediately to the Prison, in which Persons of Quality were usually secur'd. The Queen submitted to this Command with less Repugnance than she came into the Chamber, at his Command; and follow'd the Officers with a Chearfulness and Serenity of Countenance, which nothing but her Innocence could support.

Salome had all this time been upon the point of Observation, to see what Success her wicked Emisary would have; and now coming into the Chamber, casually, as it were, and by accident, she found the King in the most violent Agitations of Rage and Transport. He no sooner saw her, but coming to her with a Countenance full of Horror, and Amaze, *Sister*, said he, *I am very sorry that I did*

not follow your Counsel long since. I should have freed myself from those mortal Displeasures which torment me, had I not suffer'd myself to be blinded by a soft and indulging Passion to this Woman, which Heaven has given me for the Scourge and Plague of my Life.

Salome seem'd as if she were amaz'd at this Discourse, and by a mischievous and artful Address, of which none was a greater Mistress than herself, she endeavour'd to persuade the King in favour of *Mariamne*, insinuating that all this might amount to no more than a bare Suspicion; contriv'd by some Enemy who was envious of *Mariamne's* Perfections. *Herod*, tho' prudent and subtle in all other Affairs, labour'd under an incredible Foible in things of this nature, which prevented his avoiding these Snares, which *Salome* had so cunningly spread to catch him: And opposing her seemingly officious Humour, with those strong Testimonies (convincing as he thought) of *Mariamne's* Infidelity, he related to her all that had pass'd at this last Visit she had paid; and concluded, that nothing but a criminal Correspondence could have prevail'd on *Sohemus* (whose Honour and Advancement in the Administration of Affairs was so great as to exclude any Wish, but for the Enjoyment of *Mariamne*) to discover a Secret entrusted to him with so much Caution.

Salome, with an Air of Surprise; yet with an obsequious giving into the King's Opinion, as it were in contradiction to her own, used all her Endeavours to compose his Mind, and encourage him to bear this Misfortune with that Greatness of Spirit which he had ever shewn under the Pressures of the most heavy Calamities. Sir, said she, you have too much Courage to suffer yourself to be overcome by this
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Affliction ; and if you take Counsel of Persons who are really faithful to you, and ally'd to you in Blood, or by ancient Affection, you will not suffer this proud disloyal Woman to enjoy the Glory of having reduc'd you to the Extremity of Grief. Displeasures of this nature ought not to overturn your Repose with so much Violence, and the Offence you have receiv'd in your Honour, is not such, but that you may easily remedy it. Strip yourself only of this Love, which creates all the Misfortunes of your Life, and makes you blind to your most powerful Interests, and darkens the Light of your Understanding. Draw out, by the Means you have to do it, the full Discovery of the Treason they have committed against you ; punish the Culpable, which expose you to such bloody Displeasures ; and in fine, make her submit to your Justice, whom you could never make submit to your Love.— I am so resolv'd upon it, reply'd HEROD, that all human Considerations shall not be able to hinder me from it ; and since Mariamne has not been afraid to reduce me to the Extremity of Shame and Displeasure, I will not be more afraid to make my utmost Resentments appear against her, than if she were one of my meanest Subjects. This is a Resolution, from which nothing shall be able to move me, and you shall see me put it in execution without farther delay.

This Conference lasted some time ; and by Salome's Advice he sent to secure one of Mariamne's Eunuchs, her chief Favourite, without whose Privy he judg'd nothing could be transacted ; and so dispos'd himself by the Advice of this cruel Sister, and his Brother Pheroras, who came in soon after, and was receiv'd as a third Person in this tragical Conversation, that he was determin'd to find Evidences of Mariamne's Disloyalty, tho he extorted Confessions by putting the whole Nation to the Rack.

In pursuance of this Order issu'd out by *Herod*, this favourite Eunuch of *Mariamne's* was put to the Rack, and examin'd upon the Subject of *Mariamne's* Perfidy. The Frame of his Body, whose Tenderness differ'd little from that of a Woman's, was of too soft and delicate a Nature to endure the Severity of this Torture; and having nothing of which he could justly accuse *Mariamne*, in whose Conversation he had never perceiv'd any thing but Honour and Virtue, he for some time supported himself under the Cruelty of this Affliction: At length, in the Anguish of his Pains, he let fall some Words, intimating, that he had seen *Sohemus* talk a long while in secret with *Mariamne*, as framing some Relation to her, and that *Mariamne's* Uneasiness proceeded from what *Sohemus* had imparted to her.

Herod burst out into an Exclamation, while the Words were yet betwixt his Lips, *that* *Sohemus*, who had ever been so faithful a Subject, and a Patriot to his Prince and to his Country, would neuer have betray'd such a Secret as this, but in the Confidence and Endearment of a lascivious Embrace. Upon this he order'd the Eunuch to be taken from the Torture, and dispatch'd his Guards to secure *Sohemus*.

Sohemus knew nothing of what had pass'd, and liv'd in Ease and Security, not being conscious of having committed any thing whereby he could incur the Displeasure of his Master. He was highly surpriz'd when the Messengers came to secure him, and would enforce him to confess what Discourse had pass'd between *Mariamne* and himself, during her late Imprisonment in *Herod's* Absence, when he went to pay his Duty to *Augustus* at *Rhodes*.

Sohemus

Sohemus persisted in denial of any criminal Correspondence he had with *Mariamne*; but the King was too far possess'd with a Belief of the Truth of it, to admit of his Denial as any Excuse or Evidence to the contrary; and thereupon, without farther Preparation, or any Formality of Law, he order'd his immediate Death, which was accordingly put in execution.

It would be harsh, perhaps, to the Memory of this suffering Statesman, to impute his Death to the Justice of Providence: tho' History leaves us no Character of *Sohemus's* Honesty, that may seem to make such a Suspicion injurious. He was the favourite and trusted Minister of a Tyrant, enrich'd by the Indulgence of his Countenance, whose Orders and Designs were all so flagitious, that we have Colour enough to believe the Minister could not obey them but at the Price of his Conscience. He was so far obsequious, we find, to the Commands of this bad Prince, that he accepted the Charge of keeping *Mariamne* Prisoner, and under the Injunction of putting her to death, had *Herod* miscarry'd in his Hopes with *Augustus*. He, indeed, became a Convert, but it was to her Beauty, and not her Virtue: And the Discovery of the Secret, that was intrusted with him, proceeded rather from an Expectation of being repaid with amorous Favours, than a Remorse or Detestation for what he had promis'd to execute. We are assur'd, however, that he had so much Honesty and Bravery at his Death, as not to be induc'd by any means to give the least Countenance to suspect the Virtue of the Queen. *I plainly see, said he, at his Execution, that I must die, and by the Compassion which I have had of the Misfortunes of a great Princess, I see myself brought to my End. God is my Witness, that I little*
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regret the Loss of my Life ; but I cannot have any Comfort in my Death, if by my Weakness I should contribute to the Fall of the most virtuous and innocent Queen that ever was. She, without doubt, has hasten'd my Death, by the Discourse she had with the King, her Husband ; but all the Resentment I might have for that imprudent Act, or the Horror of all the Tortures they can present me with, shall never prevail on me to speak against the Knowledge I have of her Innocence and admirable Virtue.

Herod was Master of too much Prudence and Policy, to put his Wife to death, at the Motive of his own Jealousy and Suspicion only : He had the Reflection of the Danger he had brought upon himself in the Death of *Aristobulus*, when he was summon'd to appear before *Antony*, to acquit himself of that Crime, or stand condemn'd for it, fresh in his Mind ; and fearing the Power and Authority of *Augustus*, who, notwithstanding the Amity and Protection he had promis'd him, made him tremble ; he determin'd to prosecute this Cause with all the Formality of Law and Justice. Upon this he assembl'd his chief Counsellors in a Court of Judicature, and summon'd *Marianne* to appear in Person, and answer to such Crimes as should be objected against her. This Court was compos'd of his own Creatures, and such as would give Sentence in the Cause, not according to Reason or Justice, but as they found his Inclinations tended, and would be most agreeable to him.

This Court being sat in its Formality, and *Marianne* in Obedience to the Summons being brought to the Bar, *Herod*, himself, open'd the Cause to this Effect.

SIRS,

SIRS, it seemeth, God will counterpoise the Prosperities of my State by the Misfortunes of my House. I have found Safety in Winds and Tempests, in so many painful Voyages as I have undertaken, so many thorny Affairs which I have ended, to find a Storm in my own Palace. You are not ignorant how I have cherish'd the whole Family of Hyrcanus within my Bosom, in a lamentable Time, when it was in Decay and Confusion: For Recompence whereof, as if I had hatch'd the Eggs of a Serpent, I have got nothing but Hisses and Poyson. God knows how often I have dissembled, and how often I have cur'd my self by Patience. Notwithstanding I cannot so harden my Heart, but that it may be soften'd, and ever become penetrable by a new Wound. Behold the Queen my Wife, who, following the Steps of her Mother, is always ready to disquiet my Repose. As soon as I was return'd from the Voyage so full of Danger, as you know, I brought her News of the happy Success of my Affairs: She, shewing the little account she made both of my State and Person, at that Time heard me with so great Disdain, that what Endeavour of Courtesy soever I us'd, I never could extort from her Pride one good Word. And afterward, not contenting herself therewith, she proceeded to very bloody Injuries, which I love better to conceal, for the Honour of your Ears, and come to Deeds. Behold, one of my faithful Servants, who testifieth she would have suborn'd him to give me a Love-Potion, to wit, a Poyson, of purpose to turn my Brain, or take away the Life which God reserveth for me to acknowledge the many good Offices, which you all, in general, and each one, in particular, have afforded me. Thus you see how I am return'd; my Head crown'd with Laurel, honour'd and courted by the prime Men of the World, to serve as a Sport for the Malice, and a Mark for the Treachery of a Woman, whom I cannot

not

not reclaim by the Force of Love nor Benefits, no more than if she were a Lyonsess. Consider what you ought to do ; I deliver her into the Hands of your Justice, not willing to direct my self herein, by my own Advice ; to the end Posterity may know, that my proper Interests are ever seated beneath the Truth.

This he deliver'd with a greater Vehemence and Warmth than stood with the Dignity of a Tribunal of Justice ; which plainly convinc'd those who were the Judges, that his Purpose was to ruin the Queen, and that it was their Duty to bring her in Guilty ; but that they might not undergo the Imputation of Prejudice and Partiality, they patiently gave Audience to what the Queen had to say in Justification of her Innocence, before they proceeded to pass a definitive Sentence.

This glorious Queen was fully sensible of the Purpose for which this Court was conven'd, and that her Judges were already possess'd with the Knowledge of what Sentence they were to pass upon her ; but tho' she was endu'd with the greatest Meekness and Patience, yet she thought it stood not with the Dignity of her Character, nor her Innocence of the Crimes objected to her, to suffer herself to be found Guilty, without pleading in her own Justification : And this engag'd her to reply to this heavy Charge. *That as to the Love-Potion, which was objected against her, it was a thing in the Judgment of all those, who would truly weigh it, very far from her Thoughts, who had always been more apprehensive of King Herod's Love than his Hatred. Nor have the just Resentments, continued she, which I have against him, ever given me the Liberty of one single Thought, wherewith he might be offended. If the Blood of a Grandfather, a Brother, and so many o-*
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ther of my Friends, which he has sacrific'd to his Ambition, has extinguisht part of that ardent Affection, which a Husband, less cruel, might have found in a Wife less unfortunate, yet it has not defac'd the Character engraved by the Hand of God, whereby we are united until Death; neither has it ever inspir'd me with one single Wish against his Honour or Repose. As to my Life, I have little Regard for its Preservation, as having been a continu'd Scene of Sorrow and Misfortune; nor do the dazzling Splendors of the Court affect me, which never afforded any true Contentment or Satisfaction to my Mind. If I must be oppress'd by false Testimony, it is easy to gain a Victory over one who makes no Resistance; and more easy it is to take the Diadem from my Head, and my Head from my Shoulders; but most difficult will it be to bereave me of the Reputation of a Princess of Honour, which I inherit from my Ancestors, and will carry to my Grave.

The fair and virtuous Queen pronounc'd these Words with so much Courage, Grace and Majesty, that her Judges remain'd surpriz'd with Ravishment and Admiration; but tho' they were perfectly convinc'd of her Innocence, yet no one was found who had Courage enough to plead the Cause of this injur'd Queen, or make an Attempt to mollify and divert the Rage of the King. Their Consciences were oppress'd with Fear and Cowardice; and imagining no other Sentence but that of Death would be acceptable to him, they accordingly pass'd it upon her. But none thought, nor, indeed, did Herod himself intend to put the Sentence into immediate Execution; believing that upon her Confinement in some of his Castles, he might under that Restraint, work so far upon her Temper, as to engage her to be more complying with his Passion.

Herod was the most violent in his Passions of any Man ; and as all Extremities come soonest to an End, not being capable of any duration, so Rage having spent its utmost Effort, 'twas now time Love should regain his Empire, and move *Herod's* Thoughts with gentle Sentiments for his belov'd *Mariamne*. Driven by this all-powerful Passion, he determin'd to make Tryal how far the Restraint she was under might have gain'd an Ascendency over her Resentments, and engag'd her to shew a more ready Compliance to his Desires. Glowing with the Ardency of this Passion, he paid a Visit to her in Prison ; where he address'd her with his usual Tenderness, and the Privilege of his former Freedom and Familiarity. She receiv'd his Caresses themselves little conformable to his Hopes and Expectations : She was sensible he was an absolute Master in the Practice of Dissimulation, and had contracted such an Aversion from what was pass'd, strengthen'd and confirm'd by these new Subjects of Hatred, that *Herod* appear'd more odious and more contemptible in her Eyes than ever.

She look'd upon him with an Eye full of Scorn and Indignation, and flying from his Arms which he reach'd towards her ; *Suffer, cruel Man, said she, suffer thy Justice to take its Course : The Faces of the Judges which thou hast appointed me, are more supportable than thine to me ; and I had rather undergo the bloody Sentence, which by thy Orders they have pronounc'd against me, than receive any more thy artificial Caresses. If thou presentest thy self to me, to augment the Pain to which thou hast destin'd me, thou exceedest the Limits of all Cruelty ; and the severest Enemies have not aggravated by their Presence, the last Sufferings of those they had condemn'd to die. ——— Ah, MARIAMNE, reply'd*

ply'd the King, I come not hither to send thee to thy Death, seeing thou canst not be condemn'd but by my Sentence, which will be as destructive to me as to thy self. I come rather to snatch thee from the Rigour of those, whom by too prompt a Resentment, I have arm'd against my own Life, rather than thine: I come to let thee know that thou canst not die without Herod; and to tell thee that seeing thou hast some Respects left to that Tye which ought to unite us till Death, thou canst not disdain the Life I come to offer thee, without making an Attempt upon thy Husband's Life.

And what Favour, answer'd the Queen, interrupting him, what Favour dost thou believe thou dost me, in leaving me a Life, which by thy Cruelties thou hast render'd more odious to me a thousand times, than the Death which thou hast prepar'd for me? What Punishments are due to this innocent Life of mine, if thine, contaminated with so many Crimes, has hitherto escap'd the Indignation of Heaven, and whatsoever mine are, by what Right wouldst thou have me beholden to thee for it, since thou hast no other Right to dispose of it, but by Usurpation and Tyranny?

The Queen could scarce end her Speech, before the Tyrant's Resentments were visibly rekindled; he look'd upon her with Eyes that shew'd his Breast disturb'd with different Passions: and scarce knew in himself whether he should vouchsafe her a Reply, or give her up to the immediate Execution of her Sentence. At length, Cruel Woman! said he, the Inhumanities with which thou reproachest me every Moment, are not comparable to thine: And by the continual Outrages which thou dost me, thou endeavourest to provoke my Love, and strain my Patience to the uttermost Extremities. These Inclinations, which I have not been able to overcome, what Cause soever I had to oppose them,

still take thy Part, and represent to me that without highly injuring my self first, I cannot execute my just Resentments against thee : I conjure thee to abuse them no longer, nor constrain an Husband, who loves thee too well, to abandon thee to the Rigours of Justice, which will bring us both to our Graves.

These Words, which might have look'd from another, like Relenting and soft Persuasions, were in Herod no more than Dissimulation, and ill-corrected Fury. He knew he had given *Mariamne* her Death's Wound in his Cruelty, and Injury to her Honour, and he was only affecting now the Popularity and Opinion of Mercy. The Queen, who had not before been affrighted with her Sentence, receiv'd no Comfort from the Appearance of his Kindness : but looking upon him with an increased Disdain, *Neither thy Threats, said she, nor thy Caresses shall ever move me ; and thy Menaces are more dear to me, than the Protestations of thy Love. There is no necessity for thee to constrain thyself for a Person, to whom the Death she expects from thy Cruelty, will be a thousand times more pleasing than all the Proofs of thy Affections.*

Thou shalt die then, since 'tis thy Will, cry'd Herod full of Fury and Transport, thou shalt die, inexorable Woman ! unworthy of the Care I took of thy Safety, unworthy of my Love, and now devoted to the Justice of a King, and an Husband, who hath been injur'd in the most sensible part.

The Tyrant here flung from her Presence, and shot such Glances of Inveteracy at his Departure, that she had reason to think the next Moment would be the last of her Troubles. No Fears of Death, no Contrition for any thing that her Memory could upbraid her with, hung on her Soul :

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If she had any Sorrow, it was, that she had not the Comfort, before her Eyes were closed, of leaving a last Blessing with her little Sons; but them *Herod* had remov'd from her Embraces, and sent them to *Rome*, an Action which admitted of very various Comments. Some said, he sent them to that Academy of Kings, and prime School of the World, for their better Education; Others, that they were placed there, under the Eye of *Augustus*, as Hostages for the Fidelity and good Conduct of *Herod*.

The Tyrant was no sooner return'd to the Palace, but the Vigilance of the Faction, that wish'd the Death of *Mariamne*, pursued him to his Apartments. He was immediately visited by *Salome* and *Pheroras*; and he had no sooner told them of That, which he call'd the last Effect of his Weakness, and the last Proofs he had receiv'd of *Mariamne's* Inflexibility, but They, being interested by the Envy they had always borne to the Authority of *Mariamne*, after blaming him for a Conduct ill befitting his Dignity, and contrary to all the Laws of Prudence, they represented to him as vehemently as they could that he ought no longer to be negligent: and that if he left so obstinate an Enemy any longer in the World, she would infallibly attempt against his Life, what she had already attempted, and, possibly, executed against his Honour.

Herod, drunk with Rage, gave ear to them but too patiently, and believ'd too implicitly all that they insinuated. *Let her die*, cry'd he, addressing himself to *Salome* and *Pheroras*, to whom he was often accusom'd to commit the like Employments, *let her die, Disloyal Woman as she is, let her die like an Adulteress as she is, take her out of the World without any farther delay.* Whe-

Whether *Herod* pronounc'd this Sentence with a perfect Deliberation, or that he thought they would not obey him with too much Precipitation, however it was, he hardly finish'd the Command, before the Enemies of *Mariamne* darted to hasten the End of her Days.

The Tyrant out of the Excess of his Grief, or rather Rage, threw himself upon his Bed, where making more Reflection upon the Injury he suppos'd he had receiv'd from *Mariamne*, than upon the bloody Orders he lately had given against her, entomb'd himself in such Sorrow, as made him incapable of thinking what was now in agitation.

Salome, on the other hand, who was void of all Pity, and awake only to Revenge, snatching the Time for the Execution of their cruel Intentions, employed it with so much Heat and Eagerness, that the same day all things were prepared for the Death of the Queen. Her inveterate Enemies, fearing lest that *Herod* should return to his right Mind, and, making a rational Reflection upon what was done, should recall the inhuman Sentence which he had pronounc'd, hasten'd all things against all Forms, and gave no Leisure to Love or Reason to produce the Effects they feared. They knew, incens'd as *Herod* was, his Soul still lov'd the charming *Mariamne*, and he had all the Grudgings of that Distemper left, tho' they were stifled and disguis'd by his cruel Frenzy. They knew too that *Sohemus*, and the Eunuch, who had first been put to the Torture, expired under their Torments with the the firmest Resolution; protesting the Queen's Virtue and Innocence to the last Gasps, and expressing more Sorrow for her Death than their own. These Things

Things put together were sufficient Motives for precipitating the Death of *Mariamne*, and for fearing that *Herod* might relent of his Barbarity.

They, who went into the Prison to *Mariamne*, to give her Warning of her Fate, were astonish'd to see that she chang'd not her Countenance at their Message: that she receiv'd News capable to daunt the most hardy Spirits, with such an Assurance as made her Enemies confounded, and confirm'd them, Spight of their Malice, in the Opinion they themselves had of her Virtue. Nothing of Passion appear'd either in her Visage or Discourse; she delivered herself with strong and sedate Sense, and with a serene and settled Temper; there proceeded out of her Mouth no Complaint or Accent, which might make them judge that she went to die unwillingly. They who had seen her passionate against her Tyrant's Inhumanity, when she was provok'd by the Death of her near Kindred, found her calm and resigned to her own Fate, and observ'd no new Resentment in her for this last Effect of his Cruelty.

Before she left the Prison, with those who were to attend her to the last Stage, she turn'd to them and spoke thus with the utmost Complacence. Tell *Herod*, that 'tis this Day that I begin to receive a good Office from him, and that I accept the Present he hath been pleas'd to send me, with more Joy and Acknowledgment, than ever I did all the Testimonies of his Love. I can, nevertheless, protest before the God whom we adore, (and I owe this Justification to my Memory, and the Blood from which I am descended;) that the Repugnance, which his Cruelties have caused in me, either to his Manners or to his Person, never inclin'd me to the least thought of offending against my own Honour, or the Duty of a Wife. Tell him, that the Blood, which
he

he hath shed on my account, and thro' the Impulses of his own Jealousy, will cry for Vengeance against him : And that if I be culpable at my Death of Aught, it is, because that, by my Imprudence and unguarded Openness, I have caus'd the Ruin of those innocent Persons. Tell him too, that I beseech him, if I may beseech him at my Death, that he would stop the Current of his Cruelties with me : and look with more Affection and Pity upon the Children, which Heaven hath bestow'd upon us, upon whom the Rage of our Enemies may extend itself, if he do not remedy it. After this Supplication, bear me witness that I pardon him for my Death with all my Heart : And I pardon Salome too for it, tho' she might have contented herself to hasten the End of my Days without killing my Reputation.

After she had ended her Speech, she gave some small Orders for the Recompence of those Persons who had serv'd her, and having settled her Mind in that respect, she retir'd a while to the Duty of her Devotions ; which ended, she returned with a more chearful Countenance than before. Then after she had given a last Embrace to her Women, all bath'd in Tears, and sinking beneath their Sorrow, turning herself towards them who waited to conduct her to her Death, *Let us go, my Friends,* said she, *and obey the Pleasure of the King : 'Tis time to part : Hyrcanus and Aristobulus call for me, and I must go to find out those illustrious Asmonæans, who thro' the Care which Herod hath taken, preserve a Place in Heaven for me.*

With these Words she serenely gave her Hand to one who attended to lead her ; and having again, with a Look full of Sweetness and Majesty, taken her last Leave of those who were about her, she passed forward to the Court where the tragical
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Preparation was made for her Death. There, upon a Scaffold, erected for the purpose, the most beautiful Head was separated from the fairest Body in the World: and the most virtuous, the most innocent, and the most courageous of all Women lost her Life, by the horrid Command of a Monster, thirsty after illustrious Blood, whereof he sacrific'd the fair Remains to the Rage of its Enemies.

The same killing Blow, that robb'd her of Life, was a Stroke upon all the Inhabitants of *Jerusalem*. Never were the Streets of that populous City so throng'd, with People that came to be Spectators of that Tragedy, yet dreaded to see the very Spectacle they came for. Never were such Exclamations of Resentment, never such Murmurs of Sorrow and Compassion! If Curses would have kill'd, as *Otway* somewhere says, *Herod* would not have outliv'd that Hour: And if Wishes and Prayers could have sav'd, *Mariamne* had been immortal.

THIS was the End of that virtuous, generous Princess; a Lady almost without Exception. The Charms of her Beauty, the Graces of her Person, and the agreeable Majesty of her Conversation, were not only superior to the rest of her Sex, but even beyond Expression too upon the Comparison; and could she have carry'd it with some seeming Endearment and Complaisance to her Husband, her Happiness might have been proportionable to her Merit. For *Herod* ador'd her like a Goddess, and deny'd her no Favour that she would condescend to ask at his hands: But when we reflect that he had built his Fortunes upon the Ruin of her Family; that he had usurp'd from 'em not only the

Imperial Dignity of that Kingdom, which he himself bore, but would not even suffer the Pontificate to be in Possession of any of the *Asmonæan* Race; that he had caus'd, or procur'd, her Father *Alexander*, her Grandfather *Hyrchanus*, her Brother *Aristobulus*, and her Uncle *Antigonus*, to be put to death, to serve the purpose of his own ambitious Designs, and had twice order'd her Death, in case of his own; it would put Difficulties upon the most patient and best-temper'd Woman in the World, and would demand the Frame of her Mind to be of an Angelic Composition, to bear such a Husband with any manner of Affection or Complaisance.

The Passion which *Herod* had for *Mariamne* in her Life-time, was become much more unruly and importunate now she was dead. Rage was pleas'd to give way to Tenderness and Compassion; and Agonies of Sorrow, Regret, and tormenting Remorse for what he had done, so possess'd his Mind, that he could enjoy no Repose. The Idea of his injur'd and belov'd *Mariamne* was ever present with him, and in the height of his Distraction he would frequently call for his *Mariamne*, and give order for his Servants to bring her to him, as if she were still alive; his Grief and Impatience for his dead Wife being in no degree inferior to the Passion he bore her when alive.

This Distraction was attended with a severe and grievous Pestilence, which swept away, in great Numbers, all sorts of People, as well those of Distinction, as the Commons of the Land. And this by all impartial and unprejudic'd Persons was look'd upon as an immediate Judgment on 'em for the

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the Murther of this innocent Queen ; for they could not be induc'd to believe that the Almighty, in his Justice, would look upon such a flagitious Crime, and suffer it to pass with Impunity.

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the Murder of this innocent Queen : for they
could not be induced to believe that the Almighty
in his Justice would look upon such a heinous
Crime, and inflict it to pass with Impunity.



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